

JESUS – Power Over Death

John 11:32-44

Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?” Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me

. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

As Christ-followers face death, we have...

1. Confidence in Jesus’ power.

But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you. Jn. 11:22

... if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
(21)

Lazarus -

- . In the tomb
- . Wrapped in cloths
(not embalmed) (44)
- . The tomb was a cave and
a stone lay against it (38)
- . First 7 days – intense
wailing and grieving

2. Confidence in Jesus Himself.

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life...” (25)

The power

- to create life
- to give life
- to sustain life

“...whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live.” (25)

... everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.
Do you believe this?
(26)

Spiritual death
Eternal death

She said to Him, “Yes, Lord;
I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,
who is coming into the world” (27)

3. Confidence in the midst of our questions.

Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (32)

- You have power – why didn't you help?
- You have the power to help others – why not your friend?
- You surely loved Lazarus – why not come when He needed you?

But some of them said,
“Could not He who opened
the eyes of the blind man
also have kept this man
from dying?
(37)

Argument of atheism

- God cares but is powerless or God is powerful but doesn't care
- Since human suffering continues He is not worthy to follow.

Why should we have confidence?

- . He cares

Jesus wept.

Jn. 11:35

- . Saw her weeping (33)
- . Saw the Jews weeping (33)
- . Jesus wept – burst into tears;
 could not be contained (35)
- . Jesus loved him (36)
- . Saw the condition of mankind
 – hopeless? afraid?

A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

Isa. 53:3

Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

Isa. 53:4

. He is connected with
His Father

Jesus lifted up His eyes and said “Father, I thank You that You heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that You sent Me.

(41)

4. Confidence in obeying the commands of Jesus.

. Mary – The teacher is here and is calling for you.

(28)

And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to Him.

(29)

. Martha – Jesus said – “Take away the stone.”

Martha – “Lord, by this time there will be an odor for he has been dead 4 days.”

4 days –

Jewish tradition – (spirit would hover until the 4th day)

- decay process fully in action

- surely he is dead.

Jesus said to her – “Did I not tell you – that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” (40)

So they (with Martha’s ok)

took away the stone. (41)

Obey before the miracle!

. Noah built the ark before the rain.

. Abraham laid his son on the alter before the substitute was provided.

. Joshua and the people of Israel marched around the

walls of Jericho before they came down.

. The leaders put their feet in the Jordan before it parted.

Lazarus

(Jesus) cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus come out” (43)

Why a “loud” voice?

. Not to wake him up

. Wanted everyone to hear His voice of authority.

The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips and his face wrapped with a cloth. (44)

“The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.” Jn. 5:25

The people

... took away the stone

(41)

Unbind him and let him go.

(44)

Many believed in Him.

(45)