

Series: Simply Jesus (11/18/18)

Title: The Resurrection & The Life

Text: (John 11:1-57)

We all want to avoid Death:

Diet, Exercise, Vitamins,

I get Frustrated: 22 yr old. "I love my pink drink,

I just ran 7 miles dropped to 2 dress sizes."

Nice, now show me a 50 yr old who can' make it
around the block, & then come talk to me"

We all want to avoid Death.

My wife has taken the family off Gluten.

Made from Wheat. No Biggie.

Turns out gluten is in everything.

I think I'm 80% Gluten.

I'm convinced its Gluten that makes everything taste
good. "I can't believe its not Gluten"

We thought we would make French toast out of it.

" I chipped a tooth"

We all want to avoid Death:

"Juicing" - Sara announced: "We are going to Juice!"

1st: Juice is not verb,

"You can understand my confusion"

2nd: *"I don't care what Monel says, its a Tabletop
Wood Chipper*

3rd: I don't think she is using it correctly.

"1st batch tasted like Wisconsin"

AND we are missing my favorite wooden spoon.

4th: You can get Juice out of amazing things.

"Kale" - "Little Debbie's"

We no longer use since Sara caught me juicing a Ham

It now resides on Garage Sale Row.

As I shelved it: *"Dead appliance walking"*

We all want to avoid death!

Some people go to a gym.

Some people sit in a Sauna.

Some like to sit in a Himalayan Salt Room.

I like to sit in the Honey Baked Ham on Franconia Rd

We all want to avoid death!

It's Because we can't see past it!

We do have an Eye Witness Account: Apostle John

(Verses on Heaven)

(1 Cor 2:9) I have a pretty big imagination.

Not JUST as Better place, but the very BEST place.

(Rev 21:18-21)(Rev 22:1-5)

If it is half as good as the brochure says,

There will arguments at the gate over being force fed
Bran & Glutenless food to keep them from this place.

1 Now a certain *man* was sick, *named Lazarus*, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

Bethany~The House of the Poor

2 miles east of Jerusalem,

On the Pilgrim Road from Jericho.

2 (It was *that* Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

John's Gospel: Last one written: 85-90 AD

John no doubt was acquainted with the other three.

John had more than a half a century to reflect on them
As the Holy Spirit led him, he presented aspects of
Christ's ministry the others did not.

This reference doesn't happen til Ch 12:3, but it was widely known to the believers as Christ said it would.
(Matt 26:13) *Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.*

(Mk 14:9) *Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.*

So John, knew his readers would be acquainted with this reference.

3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

Jesus had left the Tumult of Jerusalem behind, & went to another town called Bethany (John 10:39-42)

Bethabara - Beyond Jordan (John 1:28)

At least 2-3 day journey (60mi) from Bethany Judea.

4 When Jesus heard *that*, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God,
Not everything that happens to you is about you!

The Purpose of Lazarus' illness is clearly stated.
that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

It would be great if God would tell us WHY

But He owes us NO explanation!

I just know His Character is such that there is!

5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. 6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

Vs 5 confirms that Jesus, Son of God is not calloused to their plight, but the Father had a plan!

Vs 6 - 2 whole days:

They were having a wonderful time of ministry.
(John 10:41-42) John the Baptist's preparatory ministry is still bearing fruit long after his death!
Our Father may allow someone to die so their family can get the Gospel!

I do funerals for this purpose!

God's Purposes are beyond our understanding/scope!
(Is 55:8-9) *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

7 Then after that (2 additional days of Ministry) **saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again. 8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?**
(John 10:31) *Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.*

(John 10:39) *Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,*

9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. 10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

Just as God has ordained the length of a solar day,
God has ordained the number of days of my life!
No body is going to take my life before my time!
Multiple references: *"It's not my time yet!"*

Our days are numbered also!

God knows when you are going to die. to the second!
We have to make the most of them.

Illus: God has given me a certain # of things to accomplish, & I am so far behind I will never die!

11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

This is the Bible term for a Believer who die. Ch4:13

This is Not Soul Sleep!

(2 Co 5:8) *We are confident, I say & willing rather to be absent from the body & to be present with the Lord*
Those that are dead, are conscious, Hell or Heaven
Awaiting resurrection to a suitable body.

12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

They are self diagnosing the situation.

We do it too.

We all have our ideas we want God to confirm to.

13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

No messenger had arrived to tell Him.

God knows the condition of every person!

No one lives ore dies with out God's direct concern for them.

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. 15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

“intent ye may believe”

The Apostles are about to see something that will change their view of him forever!

16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

Thomas=Doubtling Thomas

Didymus=Twin

This is not a declaration of Faith!

This is a Sarcastic Snarky comment!

“Great! Lets all go die, maybe we set a trend!”

The Apostles were real people, just like us!

**17 Then when Jesus came,
(2-3 full days journey) (Aprox 60 miles)
he found that he had *lain* in the grave four days
already.**

The Jews called for Jesus 6 days ago.

When they saw there was no hope, they sent for Jesus.
Jews believed the soul hovered near the body for a couple of days.

They figured they had time for Jesus to get there and Intervene.

18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

2 Miles East of Jerusalem on the Pilgrim road from Jericho.

19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.
People would come and comfort them, but would stay for 7 days.

Depending on the prominence of the family:

Professional Mourners would come and Wail.

We see this even today in Fairfax county.

People would bring food, but one ate until the body was buried.

20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat *still* in the house.

Every child is different!

(Luke 10:38-41)

Excellent Personality profile of these 2 sisters.

Martha: Type A, Organized, task oriented, disciplined,
Has a strong sense of fairness.

Mary: People Oriented, Emotionally driven, seen as a MESS by her sister Martha.

Everybody deals with death differently.

Mary was home grieving

Martha wanted an answer to why Jesus didn't come.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

This is not fair!

He healed other people. Strangers!

He stayed at our home allot.

We fed him & His 12 Disciples.

Why didn't we matter?

Her sensibilities kicks in:

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee.

We Believed You!

We Believed on You!

Now its time to make good on your promises!

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

That day is coming.

We are eternal beings residing in a temporary body!

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

That wasn't the answer I wanted!

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Physical Death has not separated Lazarus from God.

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Remaining here in this body is not keeping you from God either!

Believest thou this?

2000 years, this question has rung through the ages.

Everyone has to answer this before they die.

Not answering is an Answer!

The perceived ramifications of saying YES is what keeps people from answering!

What do I have to give up?

How do I have to act?

DO YOU Believe?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

She got it right? Have you?

What is your Answer?

When did you answer?

I don't know about anyone else,

but YES LORD, I Believe!

28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, **The Master is come, and calleth for thee.** **29** As soon as she heard *that*, she arose quickly, and came unto him. **30** Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him.

He was still on the Road.

He stopped on purpose.

100's of pilgrims heading to Jerusalem for Passover. He was setting them up as eye witnesses of His greatest Miracle to date.

31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there. **32** Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. **33** When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, **34** And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

35 Jesus wept.

The very 1st memorized verse for all children.

36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

This is the expression of Jesus' Humanity.

He did love Mary, Martha, & Lazarus.

He hurt because they hurt.

He hurt because they felt without hope.

37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

YES, Jesus is the Great Physician, but he is not a Dr.

This is why Jesus Groaned in Himself.

He knew they only thought of him as a Doctor.

Illus: Airline Magazine, highlights the best physicians

38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

Like Jesus will borrow from Joseph of Arimathia.

They would lay the body on a shelf, wrapped in linen.

Rich family had separate shelves for each person.

Poor families waited for decomposition, went back in, placed the bones into a wooden box, to save space.

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been *dead* four days.

“Whoa, Wait, I know you loved Him, & didn't get a chance to embrace him before he died, but decomposition is in full swing.”

The Jews did not Embalm their dead.

They buried almost immediately.

They are not like us with Funeral homes, Embalming.

Wakes, Funeral service, Graveside, etc.

They lived with the realities of Dying & Death.

They put their dead in the ground ASAP.

It is still this way today.

Can you Imagine what condition Lazarus' body was?

Within the first 1–2 days:

Pallor Mortis (Skin turns Pale)

Algor Mortis (The body cools completely)

Rigor Mortis (The stiffening of muscles @ 4 hours)

Livor Mortis (Pooling of the blood due to gravity)

Rigor Mortis subsides & the body is limp.

2–3 days: The process of Putrefaction.

Discoloration appears on the skin of the abdomen.

The abdomen begins to swell due to gas formation.

3–4 days: The discoloration spreads and discolored veins become visible.

The Resurrection of Lazarus will be the capstone of His Miracle Ministry!

The Pièce de Résistance: if you will!

Jairus' Daughter: (Mark 5 & Luke 8)

Widow's Son: (Luke 7)

Would seem as mere Resuscitations.

1st successful CPR would have seemed like magic!

Lazarus would be a complete reversal of the

Decomposition Process.

40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

Its time to “Put Up Or Shut Up”.

Its time for your Faith to have Action!

Just How far does your Faith in Christ Go?

DO YOU BELIEVE? Really?

What has changed since you believed?

How has your LIFE changed?

How has your SCHEDULE changed?

How has your RELATIONSHIPS changed?

How has your DEMEANOR changed?

How has your VALUES changed?

“if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God”

Do You want to SEE the Glory of God?

Do You want to SEE the Glory of God in your LIFE, & RELATIONSHIPS.

41 Then they took away the stone *from the place where the dead was laid.*

Mary & Martha's Faith is expressed in their Actions.

God's ways are not our ways.

God isn't going to make sense to us.

Any God that makes sense to us is not god at all.

How has your faith been expressed in your actions?

Your here this Am, Great What about SS? Wed?

What about sharing your faith?

What about your Finances. Tithes?

Jesus will prove that He is a Stone Mover is just a couple of weeks.

Jesus was not Going to work a Miracle till they agreed to believe and move the stone!

What Stones are standing in the way of your Miracle?

Pride, Addiction, Anger, Bitterness, Unforgiveness?

Roll Back the Stone over your Heart!

The Weight of it is crushing you!

(41b) And Jesus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

(37 Word Prayer, 2 Sentences, 4 phrases)

That's all it took to change the lives of 3 siblings.
That's all it will take to change your life!

Move the STONE!

PRAY and ASK for the Miracle!

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

100's of mourners & Pilgrims became witnesses TO it
and would become Witnesses OF it.

Mic Drop!

"How do you like me NOW?"

46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.