

Sermon Notes – Sunday 8th March

Miracles - 'I am, right now, Resurrection and Life' (John 11:25 msg)

Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter in 1789, 'Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain except *death* and taxes'.

Ever since God judged Adam and Eve for their sin, death has plagued humanity. It snatches those we love and looms over all our lives like a menacing spirit. The Bible calls death our final enemy, but Jesus is Life.

- What feelings do you have when you think about death?

In John chapter 11, Jesus reaches out to a family struggling with the pain of death. He shows us why we need never fear death again. Read John 11: 1-44.

- How do you understand what Jesus means in verse 4 where he says, 'so that God's Son may be glorified through it' (Jn 7:39,12:23, 12:16)?
- What does this suggest to you about the cost to Jesus of raising Lazarus?
- What might be the cost to you of doing the right thing (1 Peter 4:12-16)
- What does v 6 suggest to you about Jesus being in control of his timing? How does that encourage us in our journey of faith?
- What elements of doubt and faith do you see in Martha's statement to Jesus v21/22 (notice her thinly veiled tone of accusation and disappointment)?
- How does Jesus stretch Martha's faith in this brief encounter?
- Looking back, what experiences have really served to stretch your faith?

Jesus makes this astonishing declaration; 'I am the Resurrection and the Life' and follows up this statement with an outcome: 'Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die' v25-26.

- What kind of 'life' and 'death' is Jesus referring to in each case?
- What difference does the Resurrection of Jesus make to your feelings about your own death (Romans 8:11)?
- In what ways will this chapter change the way you respond to personal difficulty or the apparent delay of God in answering prayer?
- How will it change the way you pray for those who are going through difficult situations?

Prayer. Talk to God about how you feel when he seems far away or unconcerned about you. Thank him that he never abandons you as his child and that you can trust him for this life and the next, because of who He is.

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