



Introduction:

Not including hospitals, there are nearly 1,000 people resuscitated in the U.S. every day. But someone being brought back to life after several days in the ground is a totally different story. A body's decomposition process, depending on the climate, usually begins within 24 hours. This means Lazarus, a man Jesus resurrected, after being in the tomb for four days wasn't smelling too good. At a time when Christ's fame was already being declared throughout Israel (Luke 7:16-17), causing the Pharisees to grow increasingly uneasy (John 11:47-48, 53), Lazarus' death would provide the greatest opportunity for God's glory and power to be revealed. Christ's own death and resurrection would happen within a week of this miracle.

The Focus:

- **Everyone can overcome and defeat death.**
 - **Death is a reality for everyone.**
 - **Death can be followed by life.**
 - **Death can be defeated through Jesus.**
 - **Death does not have to be feared.**

On Sunday, Pastor Dan taught from John 11 concerning the death and resurrection of Lazarus. From the text, we see truths that Christ taught while on earth. One is that death is a reality. It will happen for everyone who is born into the world. Everyone has an appointment with death (Hebrews 9:27), but not everyone will keep that appointment (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Death is no respecter of persons; everyone is qualified (Romans 5:12; 6:23). Since the fall of man and entrance of sin, we have felt the repercussions (Genesis 3:6; 2:16-17).

Even though death is a reality it doesn't have to be one's destiny. According to Jesus (John 11:25), who is "...the resurrection, and the life...", death can be followed by life. He performed it by raising Lazarus (John 11:43), and He demonstrated it further by rising from the dead Himself (John 20:14-17). As well, Jesus promised life everlasting while He lived (John 5:24). Physical death is not the end.

Because Christ defeated death (Isaiah 25:8), anyone who places their faith in Him can possess eternal life (John 3:16). Prior to the resurrection of Lazarus, no one had been raised from the dead before. It is through Jesus that you can have eternal life (John 14:6). Entrance into heaven and a reconciled relationship with God is only possible through the crosswork of Jesus, and because of it He is the only way (Revelation 1:18). Christ defeated death by giving His life for yours (Colossians 1:20). He paid the penalty of your sin (Romans 3:25).

By placing your faith in Christ, you no longer have to fear death (Ephesians 1:12-14; 2 Timothy 1:7). There is nothing, not even death, that can separate us from the life we have in Christ (Romans 8:35-39). In fact, Christ revealed to Paul that when we die on earth, we are present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). Christ defeated Satan, who had the power of death, and

through His victory we are liberated from the bondage that fear brings (Hebrews 2:14-15). Sin brings death (James 1:15), but Christ gives life (John 10:10; Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13). Many people have the worldview that this life is the only reality, and our death is the finale; however, God's Word teaches that His plans for us are eternal (Titus 1:2). The question for everyone is will you choose life? If yes, then you must trust Jesus Christ.

Response to the Sermon:

In the sermon, Pastor Dan focused on death; how we can have life through the victory Christ achieved by His death and resurrection; and how, when one trusts in Christ, they no longer have to be in fear of death. If you are a follower of Christ, you know that He holds the keys to eternal life. Who are some people that you could tell the gospel of Christ? Where can you tell others about the life they can have in Christ? Who do you see often that you can talk to about what they believe concerning life and death? We have a great commission (Acts 26:18). Will you do your part as an ambassador of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Romans 10:15)?

Bible Study Thoughts & Questions:

Religion and the philosophies of this world will point you in every direction except toward the truth (Colossians 2:8). Religion and everything that opposes Christ will try to destroy Him and His teachings in any way possible (John 11:47-48, 53; 1 Timothy 6:20). From faith in Christ, to our daily walk with Him, it is imperative to keep our focus on God and His Word. It is essential that we believe. Basically, Jesus said to Martha (John 11:26), "Do you believe what I said." The biggest struggle for believers through the ages has been faith, believing what God promised.

Just like the Pharisees, our flesh can rear its ugly head through pride and jealousy (John 11:47-48, 53). How can we overcome pride and everything that seeks to be placed higher than God (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)?

Death is sorrowful and it is never easy. Why does death exist (Genesis 3:1-6; 2:16-17; Romans 5:12)?

Why don't believers in Christ have to fear death (2 Corinthians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18)?

Application Questions:

What is used in this world as a rebuttal to the truth of God's Word (Colossians 2:8)?

Who does Satan detract our focus from (Colossians 2:8)?

What question will everyone be faced with when death knocks at their door (John 11:26)?

Based on the story of Lazarus, what are the responses that people will have when you talk about Jesus (John 11:45-53)?

According to John 11:26, what happens to the life of one who believes in Jesus?

According to Romans 10:15, how will people get the news that Jesus has won the victory over death and they can too?

Prayer:

- Pray that you would love people like God loves people (John 3:16).
- Pray that you would see opportunities to tell others about the life they can have in Christ (Romans 5:1; 10:9).
- Pray you would remember Christ's return for His church is imminent; pray we would live in the reality of His return (1 Thessalonians 4:14-18).