

Passing Through Death and Coming Out Alive

John 11

Introduction:

1. I heard a baseball announcer talking about how his son had choked on some food, and he commented, "I just faced death straight in the face; bring me a cocktail." He might have faced death, but he didn't pass **through** death.
2. But here in our text a man (Lazarus) actually **does** pass through death (was dead four days), but came out alive. You ask, "How can that be?" One word: Jesus!
3. One day all of us will not only face death, but pass through death. Like Lazarus, we can pass through death and come out alive. How? The key is found in verse 25.
 - Doctors will work and work over a patient. But when he dies, they all stop working. When death comes, they are through. Science is helpless in the presence of death. But where man must leave off, Jesus begins.
4. Jesus said, "*I am the resurrection and the life...*" and then He proved it. Jesus died for our sins on the cross and was buried, but death could not hold Him. He rose again the third day.
5. He conquered death, and if you and I are to have any hope of passing through death and coming out alive, we **must** trust Jesus.
6. Here in our text, I see several reasons why you should trust Jesus Christ with your heart and life.

First, you can trust Jesus because of His love. vs. 1-3, 5, 36

1. Jesus truly loved people. He loved Lazarus when he was healthy and when he was sick. He loved Mary and Martha when things were going good and when things were going bad. He just loved them.
2. Did you know Jesus loves you? No matter what you're going through, what you've done, or where you've been, He loves you with a deep, abiding love. How do I know this? John 15:13
3. What do you think sent Jesus to that cross to die a shameful, cruel, agonizing death? It was His love for you. He wants to be your Savior and friend, and walk with you, and talk with you, and be there for you.
4. You say, "But you don't know all I've done in my life. I have messed up over and over again." I remind you, even those who crucified Christ - He loved them and cared for them.
5. Jesus is looking for someone who will accept His love.

Second, you can trust Jesus because of His compassion. vs. 32-36

1. After Jesus heard about Lazarus being sick, He waited for two days. During this time, Lazarus died. In verses 20-21, Martha said to Jesus, "*If...*" Martha thought that maybe Jesus didn't really care, nor have compassion, because He didn't come soon enough.
2. But now let's read verses 32-36. Isn't this absolutely precious? Jesus didn't lecture them or say, "Dry it up and have more faith." He stood there and cried with them. Our Savior had compassion.

3. Did you know the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ (this compassionate Savior) is now at the right hand of the Father, interceding for His children?
4. This is the great miracle of Christianity. Christianity is not man trying to somehow reach out to God and earn His acceptance. It is the wonderful truth that God came to where we were, and walked in our shoes.
 - In religious systems, man works on earth in order to appease God and earn heaven.
 - In Christianity, God came down to earth and worked (the cross of Calvary) so that He could give us the gift of heaven.
5. Jesus rose from the dead, ascended up to heaven, and now is there pleading our cause, helping us when we are in need. He is touched when we cry because He knows what it feels like to cry, feel sorrow, feel pain, feel hurt, feel rejection, and feel lonely.
 - We do not have a God that is aloof and distant in heaven and can't understand what we are going through.
 - He is touched by the feelings of our infirmities. Hebrews 4:15-16
6. What a God we have! He can feel what we feel because He has walked in our shoes.

Third, you can trust Jesus because of His resurrection power.

1. Jesus performed what many believe to be His greatest miracle. vs. 43-44
2. Lazarus had been dead four days. Only one person could give Lazarus victory over death, and that was Jesus, but why? vs. 25-26
3. Jesus **is** the Resurrection and the Life. He personifies life. This is why death could not hold Him down. 1 John 5:11-12
4. This is basically what Jesus said here in our text in verses 25-26. If we are to have any hope of one day defeating death and gaining eternal life, we must look in faith to the One who has already defeated death. Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9; Galatians 3:26
 - Through placing your total faith and trust in Jesus Christ, you are saved from death, and you gain eternal life. Romans 6:23
5. This is the simple message of salvation that Satan is trying to hide and to divert people's attention from in two primary ways:
 - By convincing people that salvation comes through their good works (church membership, religious rituals, baptism, etc). Notice verse 25. It didn't say, "Church attendance is the resurrection and the life, or baptism..."
 - By giving people a head-knowledge of Christ, but not a heart-knowledge. Romans 10:10
6. Verse 39 – Satan does not care how much you know **about** Christ in your head, as long as you never roll away that stone from your heart and let Jesus in. It is **your** choice. You must roll away the stone of sin, or pride, or bitterness, or unbelief, and you must personally trust Jesus Christ to save you and give you His resurrection life.

In Conclusion:

1. There were two reactions to Jesus' miracle and message:

- Many believed. vs. 45
 - Some did not, but simply walked away and gossiped about it. vs. 46
2. Some were saved, and some simply got sour.
 3. Today, we all make a choice to either believe on Christ and trust His mighty resurrection power, or simply walk away the same way we came in.
 4. You can trust Christ **today**. You can trust Him because of His love, His compassion, and His mighty resurrection power. Will you trust Him today?