



JESUS IS GOD'S ANSWER TO MAN'S DEATH

Preaching and Teaching Resources

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Jesus is God's Answer to Man's Death

The Book of John shares Jesus' glorious miracles with great messages and spiritual truths. In John 11, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, revealing that He is God's answer to Man's death.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die'" (John 11:25-26).

Many of us are alive but simply exist, fighting to live, while living to fight; but Jesus came, so that we may have life abundantly.

Therefore, the only way to live abundantly is to first experience life in Jesus.

In this passage, Lazarus had been physically dead for days; spiritually, he represents many of us who are dead in our sins. No amount of examples, encouragement, environment or education can bring a spiritually dead man back to life. He is resurrected the same way Jesus resurrected Lazarus: by His Word. Those who know Jesus Christ never truly die; instead, they have everlasting life.

Second, living abundantly means exercising liberty through Jesus.

We can be saved, and still not live in victory, caught up somewhere between the powers of Calvary and Pentecost.

As Lazarus was taken out of his grave clothes, we must also discard our old lives and step into new lives of liberty. As the Church, we minister to each other by calling forth the spiritually dead and unwrapping the saints.

Abundant life also means enjoying our love for Jesus.

Lazarus dined with Jesus after he was resurrected, reminding us that fellowship with Jesus Christ is a reward in itself.

Finally, abundant life means expressing loyalty to Jesus.

After all he'd experienced, Lazarus was no longer afraid of death; He was loyal to Jesus, even when there was a threat made against him by the Pharisees.

Adrian Rogers says, "No man is ready to live until he is no longer afraid to die."

When we experience life in Jesus, as well as liberty, love, and loyalty to Him, we begin to live the abundant life He promised us.

Life Application

Do you have the abundant life Jesus promised those who live in Him? Consider your spiritual condition today, and step into a life of liberty, love, and loyalty to Christ.



Jesus is God's Answer to Man's Death

SERMON REFERENCE: John 11:25-26

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1931

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Jesus is the only reason that we live.
 - i) He came that we might live.
 - (1) John 10:10
- b) Most people today don't have life; they have existence.
 - i) They are fighting to live while they are living to fight.
 - ii) They are drawing their breath and drawing their salary, and one day is turning into another.
 - iii) They have got it all backward.
- c) Life is the way we live.
- d) Jesus has come that we might have life.
 - i) Satan has come to rob us of life.
 - (1) John 10:10
- e) Many people don't have life.
 - i) They don't understand life; they look at life very pessimistically.
 - ii) Someone has said that youth is a blunder, manhood is a struggle, and old age is a regret.
 - (1) That may be true if you don't know the Lord Jesus.
 - iii) Shakespeare said, "Life is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."
- f) John 11:25-26
- g) There are seven miracles in the Gospel of John.
 - i) These are miracles with a message and signs with a significance.
 - ii) They are literal, actual miracles.
 - iii) They are miracles of glory that have in them messages of grace.
 - iv) These miracles happened in order to teach us greater lessons of eternal and spiritual truths.
- h) In this message, we will study the miracle of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.
 - i) Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead to give us an illustration of the greater spiritual truth of eternal life.
 - (1) John 11:25-26
 - (a) This is the greatest truth that we need to learn.
- i) The seven miracles in the Gospel of John include the following:
 - i) Jesus turned water into wine.
 - (1) John 2:1-11
 - (2) Jesus is God's answer to man's disappointment.
 - (a) The wines of this world run out, but Jesus gives joy that is full, free, and forever.
 - ii) Jesus healed a nobleman's son.
 - (1) John 4:46-54
 - (2) The nobleman had difficulty believing.
 - (3) Jesus is God's answer to man's doubt.
 - (4) Jesus gave this man a great lesson on spiritual faith.
 - iii) Jesus healed an impotent man at the Pool of Bethesda.



- (1) This man was paralyzed and could do nothing.
- (2) John 5:2-9
- (3) Jesus is God's answer to man's disability.
 - (a) Romans 5:6
- iv) Jesus fed 5,000 hungry people.
 - (1) John 6:5-13
 - (2) It was a miracle of glory, but it spoke of grace.
 - (3) Jesus is God's answer to man's desires.
 - (a) John 6:35
- v) Jesus walked on the water.
 - (1) John 6:16-21
 - (2) The disciples were in a storm and were in despair.
 - (3) The disciples saw that what looked like was going to be over their heads was already under His feet.
 - (4) Jesus is God's answer to man's despair.
- vi) Jesus opened the eyes of a man born blind.
 - (1) John 9:1-7
 - (2) Jesus is God's answer to man's darkness.
 - (a) John 8:12
- vii) Jesus raised a man from the dead.
 - (1) His name was Lazarus.
 - (2) Jesus is God's answer to death.
 - (a) John 11:25
- viii) These are miracles of glory that speak of greater miracles of grace.
 - (1) Believe in miracles, but trust in Jesus.
 - (a) These miracles are not to have us put our faith in miracles.
 - (b) Our faith is to be in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- j) Today's message will look at the miracle of the raising of Lazarus and will give us some steps that will help us to have a full and abundant life.

2) WE MUST EXPERIENCE LIFE IN JESUS (JOHN 11:14, 26)

- a) John 11:14
 - i) Lazarus was dead.
- b) There might have been many wonderful things that could have been said about Lazarus, but there was nothing really right about him because there was one thing very wrong about him.
 - i) He was dead.
- c) Some people might say many wonderful things about us, but if we don't know the Lord Jesus, then what does it matter if we are dead?
- d) Many people are dead in trespasses and sin.
 - i) 1 Timothy 5:6
 - ii) They are dead while they live.
- e) There are other people we call dead who are not dead at all.
 - i) It is totally impossible for a Christian to die.
 - ii) If they knew Jesus, then they are not dead.



- iii) Their body may have ceased to function, but the body is just an earthly house.
- iv) John 11:26
 - (1) If we are saved, then we cannot die.
 - (a) We just simply move out.
 - (i) 2 Corinthians 5:8
- f) Many people think they have life, but Jesus says that they are dead.
- g) Many people whom we call dead are not dead at all because they have eternal life.
 - i) We never really die when we know the Lord Jesus Christ.
- h) Sometimes we look at other people, and we think that we are better than they are.
 - i) The Bible records that Jesus raised three from the dead:
 - (1) A little girl
 - (a) Matthew 9:18-26
 - (b) Jesus said that she was asleep, and everyone laughed him to scorn.
 - (c) Her body was still warm.
 - (d) In the Greek language, Jesus literally said, "Little darling, get up."
 - (2) A young man being carried to his funeral
 - (a) Luke 7:12-15
 - (b) Rigor mortis had set in, but decay had not yet set in.
 - (3) Lazarus
 - (a) John 11:1-44
 - (b) Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days.
 - (i) There was time for decay and corruption to begin.
 - (4) Which one was the most dead?
 - (a) Dead is dead.
 - (b) There is no such thing as being a little bit dead.
 - ii) We compare ourselves to the drunk covered with vomit and flies and reeking in corruption, to the drug addict, and to the prostitute.
 - (1) But someone sitting in a church service without Jesus is just as dead.
 - iii) Without Jesus Christ, we are dead in trespasses and sin.
 - (1) Ephesians 2:1
 - (2) We need life from the Lord Jesus Christ.
- i) Suppose there were a deceased person we were trying to raise from the dead.
 - i) Sociologists, psychologists, and psychiatrists tell us that people today need the following "E's":
 - (1) Example
 - (2) Encouragement
 - (3) Environment
 - (4) Education
 - ii) How would we raise him?
 - (1) By giving him an example.
 - (a) We could show him how a live man lives.
 - (b) An example will not raise a dead man.
 - (2) We could encourage him with our words.
 - (a) But we cannot encourage a dead man to life.
 - (3) We could change his environment.



- (a) We could take the dead man and leave him in a room full of living people.
 - (i) The right environment might give him life.
- (b) But environment is not the answer.
- (c) We should do all that we can to help people have a good environment, but Adam and Eve got into trouble in the Garden of Eden.
 - (i) You cannot have a better environment than that.
- (4) We could educate the man.
 - (a) Many people think that the answer to the world's problems is education.
 - (i) But the answer is Jesus.
 - 1. Salvation does not come by learning lessons from the life of Christ, but by receiving life from the death of Christ.
 - iii) The above four "E's" are not the answer for a dead man.
 - (1) We need life from the Lord Jesus.
 - (a) That is why Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave.
 - (i) To tell us what it is all about.
- j) How did Jesus raise Lazarus?
 - i) Jesus told him to come forth.
 - (1) John 11:43
 - (2) There was no pleading and no argument.
- k) We raise a dead man spiritually the same way that Jesus raised Lazarus physically.
 - i) Jesus raised him by His Word.
 - (1) John 6:63
 - (a) In this verse, the word "quickened" means "gives life".
 - ii) We are born again by the Word of God.
 - iii) Hebrews 4:12
 - (1) In this verse, the word "quick" is the word from which we get the word "zoology."
 - (a) It means "alive", "powerful", and "to energize with power".
 - iv) You raise a dead man by the Word of God.
 - v) Philippians 2:16
 - (1) We are to be "holding forth the Word of Life".

3) WE MUST EXERCISE LIBERTY THROUGH JESUS (JOHN 11:44)

- a) Lazarus came out of the grave.
 - i) He had life, but he didn't have liberty.
 - (1) He was bound.
 - (2) He couldn't walk, he couldn't work, he couldn't speak, and he couldn't see.
 - ii) Jesus said to loose him and to let him go.
- b) Lazarus, at this stage, was like many people.
 - i) They have been saved, but they are not living in victory.
 - ii) They have been to Calvary for pardon, but they have not yet been to Pentecost for power.
 - (1) Somehow, they got bogged down between Calvary and Pentecost.
 - iii) They have life, but they don't have liberty.



- c) Lazarus may have had life, but he had the stench of death on him.
 - i) The grave clothes were relics of his old life.
 - (1) The Lord Jesus said to take them off of him, unwrap him, and let him go.
- d) Jesus did not simply come to give us life, but He came to give us abundant life.
 - i) He does not want us wearing the grave clothes of the old life.
 - ii) John 8:32
 - iii) John 8:36
 - iv) So many of us are still wearing the grave clothes of the old life, yet we have truly been saved.
 - (1) The old loves, the old lusts, and the old lies have all stayed because we still have the grave clothes of the old life.
 - (2) But Jesus said to set him free.
 - (a) That is the reason we need the church.
- e) What is the ministry of the church?
 - i) To call forth and to raise the dead.
 - ii) To unwrap the saints.
 - (1) To give them liberty.

4) WE MUST ENJOY LOVE FOR JESUS (JOHN 12:1-2)

- a) Lazarus had gone from the tomb to the table.
 - i) He had no more grave clothes.
- b) Lazarus was face-to-face with Jesus.
 - i) He was having a meal with Jesus.
- c) We can have fellowship with Jesus.
 - i) That is what we have every time we come to the Lord's table.
 - (1) We have a meal with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Revelation 3:20
- d) Many times, Jesus invited His disciples to eat with Him.
 - i) He would say, "Come and dine."
 - (1) John 21:12
- e) It is our legacy to fellowship with one another.
- f) It is our legacy to fellowship with the Lord Jesus.
- g) Salvation is not a penalty that we pay in order to get to Heaven.
 - i) We should want to be Christians even if there were no Heaven.
 - (1) But there is a Heaven.
 - (2) Just to know the Lord Jesus Christ in this life, to love Him, and to have Him love us back.

5) WE MUST EXPRESS LOYALTY TO JESUS (JOHN 12:9-11)

- a) John 12:9-11
- b) Lazarus stood up for Jesus.
 - i) He gave testimonies for Jesus.
 - ii) He was dangerous to Satan's kingdom.
 - (1) People were coming to Jesus and being saved.
- c) The Pharisees wanted to stop Lazarus from talking about Jesus.
 - i) They wanted to put him to death.
 - (1) Death held no more terrors for Lazarus.



- (2) He was not intimidated at all by the fact that they might put him to death.
- ii) Satan is the sinister minister of fear.
 - (1) The Bible says that through the fear of death, he keeps people in bondage.
 - (a) Hebrews 2:15
- d) Lazarus was no longer afraid of death.
 - i) He had the Lord of life.
 - ii) They might destroy his body, but all they could do was hasten him on to Heaven.
 - (1) He knew that now.
 - iii) No man is ready to live until he is no longer afraid to die.
 - (1) When we are no longer afraid to die, then we live as Lazarus lived.
- e) When we live our lives for Jesus and have life, liberty, love, fellowship, and loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ, we experience the life that Jesus talked about when He said that He came that we might have life and have it abundantly.
 - i) John 10:10

6) CONCLUSION

- a) Many people have problems.
 - i) They are not saved.
- b) The answer to their problem is not a "what" but a "who".
 - i) His name is Jesus.
 - (1) He is God's answer to their problem.
- c) No matter what your problem is, the One who can raise the dead is the answer to your problem.
 - i) You don't have a problem too big for Him.
- d) Believe in miracles, but trust in Jesus.
- e) He did not come just to open blind eyes, unstop deaf ears, straighten withered arms, or to raise physical bodies temporarily from the grave.
 - i) He came to save souls.
 - ii) John 10:10
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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SERMON REFERENCE: John 11:25-26

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Would you take God's Word and be finding John chapter 11, and when you've found it, I want to tell you that Jesus is the only reason that we live. As a matter of fact, He came that we might live. He said in John 10 and verse 10, now you're in John 11, but He said in John 10 and verse 10, "I have come that you might have life." He's the only reason I live. "I've come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

So, most folks today don't have life, they have existence. They are fighting to live while they're living to fight. They're drawing their breath and drawing their salary and one day is turning into another. They have existence but they don't have life. They've got it all backward. Let's take the word life, L-I-F-E and think about it a little bit because life is the way we live. L-I-V-E is the way we live. Now if you take live and spell it backward, what is it? E-V-I-L, evil. Just get it backward. And after you've lived, if you haven't lived for Jesus, if you've lived for some other reason, when your life is over, when it has been lived, just take lived and spell it backward. D-E-V-I-L, devil. Now folks, Jesus has come that you might have life. Satan has come to rob you of life, John 10:10 says he, "Comes to steal and to kill and to destroy." We're not fools for following the Lord Jesus Christ, but the problem is, many people do not have life. They don't understand life, and they look at life very pessimistically.

Disraeli said that, "Youth is a blunder, manhood a struggle, old age a regret." Well, that may be true if you don't know the Lord Jesus. It was Shakespeare who said that, "Life's a tale told by an idiot full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Some college students were asked to give a definition of life for the school newspaper and here are some definitions that won honorable mention. One said, "Life is a joke that isn't even funny." Another said, "Life is a disease, for which the only cure is death." Another said, "Life is a jail sentence that we get for the crime of being born."

Well, let me read to you about the Lord of life, the Lord Jesus. Look if you will in verse 25 and 26, "Jesus said unto her, 'I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.'" Now I'd rather go with the Lord of life than Disraeli, or Shakespeare, or those college students, or so many other people who do not understand the meaning of life.

Actually, we have been studying together seven miracles in the Gospel of John, and these are miracles with a message. These are signs with a significance. They are literal actual miracles. They are miracles of glory that have in them messages of grace. Now the miracles happened, but the miracles happened to teach us greater lessons, to teach us great, eternal, spiritual truth.

Now, what we're studying today is the miracle of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Well, did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead just in order to raise Lazarus from the dead? No, Lazarus died again. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead to give us an illustration of the greater spiritual truth of eternal life. Where He says in John chapter 11 and verse 25, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that liveth and believeth in Me shall never die." That's the greatest truth, that's the truth we need to learn.

Now, we saw in John 2 verses 1 through 12, Jesus turning water into wine and we saw that Jesus is God's answer to man's disappointment. The wines of this world run out, but Jesus gives joy that is full and free and forever.



Then John 4 verses 46 through 54, we saw Jesus healing the nobleman's son. The nobleman had difficulty believing and Jesus said, "Except ye see signs and miracles, you'll not believe." But Jesus is not only God's answer to man's disappointment, Jesus is God's answer to man's doubt. And He gave this man a great lesson on spiritual faith.

And then in John 5 verses 1 through 15, we saw the Lord Jesus Christ heal an impotent man at the Pool of Bethesda. The man was paralyzed, he could do nothing and Jesus came and said, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." Why that miracle? To show us the greater miracle, that Jesus is God's answer to man's disability. "While we were yet without strength, Christ died for the ungodly." Romans 5:6.

And then we saw in John 6 verses 1 through 14, the Lord Jesus Christ as He fed 5,000; 5,000 hungry people. Was He doing that just to show that He could feed 5,000 people? Of course not. He didn't feed everybody everywhere He went. He's teaching a lesson. It was a miracle of glory, but it spoke of a miracle of grace, that Jesus is God's answer for man's desires. Jesus says in John 6:35, "I am the Bread of Life." That's the lesson behind the miracle. That's the significance in the sign.

And then in John 6 verses 15 through 21, Jesus walked on the water. What was He doing? Was He just showing off? Oh no, there's a lesson. When Jesus there walked on the water, those disciples were in a storm. They thought their little ship was about to sink. They were in despair! And then they saw that everything that looked like it was going to be over their head was already under His feet. Jesus is God's answer to man's despair.

And then in John 9 verses 1 and 2, Jesus opens the eyes of a man born blind. This man stumbling in darkness, a man blind by birth, a beggar, he needed light. And Jesus opens his eyes. Why? Just to show that He can open a blind man's eyes? He didn't open every blind man's eyes, but what was He showing? Jesus is God's answer to man's darkness. Jesus said in John 8:12, "I am the Light of the world." That's the message in the miracle.

And now we come to the last of these seven miracles. Jesus is raising a man from the dead. That man's name is Lazarus. Well, He doesn't raise everybody from the dead in this life, of course not. But what is the message in the miracle? Jesus is God's answer to man's death. John 11:25, "I am the Resurrection and the Life." Miracles of glory that speak of greater miracles of grace. That's the reason I told you friend, believe in miracles but trust in Jesus. Do you understand what I'm talking about? These miracles are not to have us put our faith in miracles. Our faith is to be in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, I want us to see today what we're going to learn from this wonderful miracle. If you want full life, wonderful life, the abundant life that we've been talking about, let me give you some steps. Step number one, jot it down, get a pencil and a piece of paper and write this down, **I must experience life in Jesus**, I must experience life in Jesus. Now look if you will in John 11 verse 14 of this chapter. Jesus talks about His friend Lazarus, "Then said Jesus unto them plainly, 'Lazarus is,'" what? What's that word? Let's see if you're reading. "'Dead. Lazarus is dead.'" Now folks, Lazarus had a king size problem, he's dead. Now there might have been many wonderful things you could say about Lazarus. You might say Lazarus has a full set of hair. You might say that Lazarus has a nice suntan. You might say that Lazarus is wearing a nice suit. You might say that Lazarus is surrounded by many friends. You might say that Lazarus is lying on a nice couch. No matter how many things might be right about him, there's nothing really right about him because there's one thing very wrong about him, he is dead.

You might be telling me all the wonderful things about you today, but if you don't know the Lord Jesus, what do they matter if you're dead? You see, there're many folks who are listening to me right now who are dead. You're dead in trespasses and sin. And the Bible says that in First Timothy chapter 5 verse 6, "She that



liveth in pleasure is dead while she lives." Do you know any folks who are dead while they live? Memphis is full of them. New York City is full of them. Tokyo is full of them. They are dead while they live. And yet there're other people we call dead who are not dead at all. You say, "My mamma's dead, my daddy's dead." Not if they know Jesus. Not if they know Jesus. They're just kicking up gold dust on the streets of glory. They're not dead.

Hey, you want to see a man that's impossible for that man to die? A man that cannot die. Here he is. I can never die. You say, "Now wait a minute Adrian, of course you can die." No, I can never die. It's absolutely, totally impossible for me to die. Now, this body may cease to function. What does the Bible call my body? "An earthly house." Second Corinthians 5:1. Now, my earthly house may decay. It may wind down to the grave. Suppose I were to give a gasp and a shudder and fall on this platform and get very still. And suppose some of these doctors were to come up here and take my vital signs, whatever they do. Then they would stand up and say, "Well, the Pastor is dead." Well, that wouldn't be true. That wouldn't be true. Jesus said in John 11:26, "He that lives and believes in Me shall I never die." Now whose word are you going to take, the doctor's or Jesus'? You see, I cannot die, I will just simply move out. But I will not die. Read Second Corinthians 5:8, "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." It is absolutely totally impossible for me to die. So many people who are listening to me right now, you think you have life, but Jesus says you're dead. And so many people that we call dead are not dead at all, because they have eternal life. Do you understand? I hope you understand that we never really die when we know the Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the most unusual men that I ever had the joy of knowing was a man named Charlie Fisher. He was a little wiry guy, we called him Uncle Charlie. He was more on fire for Jesus, I believe, than any man I've ever seen. And Uncle Charlie was a member of my church in Ft. Pierce, Florida. Uncle Charlie was the kind of guy that had an old airplane, the old canvas covered airplane. He would fly over county fairs and dump out bushels of tracts and then have a loud speaker and he would fly around and preach to the people down there, telling them about the Lord Jesus. He would go on street meetings, did all kinds of strange things. I could tell you so many stories about Uncle Charlie.

But I think the strangest thing about Uncle Charlie is, when he finally died, he preached his own funeral. What Uncle Charlie did was to tell his son, Lee. He said, "Now Lee, when they come to my funeral just get all my friends there. You don't have to do a thing. Just get all my friends there and here's a tape recorder. Just push that button right there, that's all." And so, all his friends were there and it's time for the funeral and Uncle Charlie was out there, at least his body was there. And they pushed the button on the tape recorder and it was Uncle Charlie Fisher. He said, "Hello friends, this is Charlie Fisher." He said, "I'm up here in Heaven and it is wonderful up here in Heaven," and he began to describe Heaven and tell all about Heaven and tell how wonderful it was. And then he said, "I want all of you down there to come and meet me in Heaven." The only man I ever knew who preached his own funeral, Uncle Charlie Fisher. Hebrews 11:4, "And while he being dead, was yet speaking." That's what Jesus is talking about. "She that lives in pleasure is dead while she live," but when we have the Lord Jesus Christ we have everlasting life.

You know folks, sometimes we look around at other people and we think that we're a little bit better than they are. You know that the Bible records that Jesus raised three from the dead. Do you remember who they were? In Mark chapter 5 verses 21 through 43, there was a little girl that was in the back bedroom asleep. Well actually she died. Jesus said she's asleep and everyone laughed Him to scorn. But her little body was still warm. Precious little girl there in the back bedroom, Jesus went back while the rest were laughing and Jesus said, "Wake up sweetheart." Literally, that's what the Greek language, "Little darling, get up." Smmmm! She wakes up; He raises this little girl.

Then there was another occasion in Luke 7 verses 11 through 17; Jesus was on his way and there was a



funeral. And a young man was there being carried along. He had died, rigor mortis had set in but decay had not yet set in. And you know Jesus broke up every funeral He ever came to. Jesus raised that young man from the dead.

And then the third that the Bible records in John 11 verses 38 through 44, that Jesus raised from the dead was this man Lazarus. How many days had he been in the tomb? Four. How long was he before they put him in the tomb? We don't know but there was time for petrification and decay and corruption to begin. And when Jesus said, "Roll away the stone," they said, "No, no, no wait a minute Lord, what about the stench?" Jesus said roll away the stone and this man who's body had begun to decay, Jesus raised from the dead.

Now, I want to ask you a question: the little girl, the young man, and Lazarus, which one was the most dead? Which one was the most dead? Folks, dead is dead. Isn't that right? Dead is dead. There's no such thing as being a little bit pregnant and a little bit dead. Dead is dead! Now what we do, we turn around and we look at other people and we see the drunk covered with vomit and flies, reeking in corruption. The dope addict, the prostitute. We say, "Man look at that!" I want to tell you mister, you sitting in this service today all dressed up without Jesus, you're just as dead, just as dead. I want to tell you precious young lady here today, you may be a teenage girl, sweet and pure as the driven snow sexually. You may have never used booze and dope, but without Jesus Christ you are dead in trespasses and sin. I hope we understand that today. That men need life from the Lord Jesus Christ so put it down, I must experience life in Christ.

Now, how do you experience life in Christ? How? Suppose we had a dead person up here on this platform today and we're going to raise the dead. Well let me ask you, what do social engineers say that many need today? I'm talking about what do the people in the universities say? What do the sociologist, the psychologist and the psychiatrist say that people need today? Let me give you, they're the four E's. They say: people need example, people need encouragement, people need environment, and people need education. That's what they say. People need example, they need encouragement, they need environment, and they need education. Now folks we're spending billions of dollars on those things. To try to do those things.

Now, suppose we had a dead man up here today, and we're trying to raise a dead man today. How are we going to raise that dead man? I'll tell you one way we could raise that dead man. See if you think this will work; by giving him an example. I could get Brother Bobby Lewis over here and I'd say, "Bobby, I've got a dead man, come show him how a live man lives." Do fifty push-ups. Could you do that? Do fifty push-ups. So here's Bobby down here showing this man the strength and energy that he has. That's an example to dead man. Do you think an example is going to raise a dead man? Well, you say, "No that won't do it."

Alright. What are we going to do? We going to encourage him. Here he is, and so I'm a pastor. And so I say, "Hey, man, you can do it. Come on, now. Come on. Atta boy. Atta boy." Am I going to encourage a dead man to life?

Well, you say, "Environment, that's the answer. Let's take that dead man and leave him in this room full of living people. And if you put him in the right environment, that'll give him life." No, it won't. Let me tell you something. Environment is not the answer and the people of this world can never learn that. I think that we ought to do all we can do to help people have a good environment, but I want to remind you of something. Adam and Eve got in trouble in the Garden of Eden; you can't have a better environment than that. You think environment is the answer? It cannot be the answer.

Well, you say, "I'll tell you what the answer is. Brother Bobby, go get a medical book. Let's educate this man. Let's give him twenty lessons on life." He's dead! And so many people think, "Well, the answer to this



world's problem is education." No. It's Jesus! Salvation does not come by learning lessons from the life of Christ, but by receiving life from the death of Christ.

But those four E's are not the answer to a dead man. I need life from the Lord Jesus. That's why Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave to tell us what it is all about. Now how does Jesus raise Lazarus? Well, it's very simple and very sweet. Jesus just says to him in John 11 verse 43, "And when He had thus spoken, He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth.'" No pleading, no argument, just, "Lazarus, come forth." How do you raise a dead man spiritually? The same way that Jesus raised Lazarus, by His word. That was a good place for an Amen. I'll say it again. How, how do you raise a man spiritually? The same way that Jesus raised Lazarus physically, by His Word. Amen. Okay.

Alright, now listen, He's already said in John chapter 6 and verse 63, "It is the spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing," the word quickeneth means gives life, "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." We are born again by the Word of God. The Word of God is quick and powerful. And the word quick means zoon. It's the word we get zoology from. Alive! And powerful, energizes, with power. The Word of God. How do you raise a dead man? The Word of God. The Word of God. That's the reason that the Bible says in Philippians chapter 2 verse 16, we are to be "Holding forth the word of life."

Alright the first thing that you wrote down is I must experience life in Christ. Now write this down, **I must exercise liberty through Christ**. Now look if you will in John 11 verse 44, Lazarus comes out of the grave and the Bible says, "And he that was dead came fourth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus said unto them, 'Loose him and let him go.'" Can you imagine that scene; Jesus says, "Roll away the stone." I can imagine, every eye is fixed on that gaping hole. And then Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out of there." Suppose you'd been there. You're looking at the mouth of the tomb and after a while there appears in the door of that tomb a figure. Hollywood hadn't got it all. Wrapped round and round. He has life but he doesn't have liberty. He's bound, he's blind, he's gagged, he can't walk, he can't work, he can't speak, he can't see; and yet he has life. And Jesus says, "Loose him and let him go." Now Lazarus at this stage is like so many people I know. They have been saved but they are not living in victory. They have been to Calvary for pardon but they've not yet been to Pentecost for power. Somehow they have bogged down between Calvary and Pentecost. They have life but they don't have liberty.

Now, would you have wanted to have Lazarus home for dinner at this particular stage? I mean, he may have life, he may be raised but his grave clothes stink. The stench of death is on him. He still has the smell of death. Those grave clothes are relics of his old life, and our Lord says, "Take that off of him, unwrap him. Loose him and let him go." Now, listen, Jesus did not just simply come to give you life; He came to give you abundant life. He doesn't want you wearing the grave clothes of the old life. In John chapter 8 and verse 32, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you," what? "free." And John 8 verse 36, "If the Son shall make you free, you'll be free indeed." You see so many of us still are wearing the grave clothes of the old life and yet we have truly been saved. The old loves, the old lusts, the old learning, the old lies, they all stay there. Because we still have the grave clothes of the old life. But Jesus says, "Set him free." That's the reason we need the church.

Do you know what the ministry of the church is? Number one, to call forth the dead. Number two, to unwrap the saints. Number one, to raise the dead! Number two, to unwrap the saints! To give them liberty! Thank God for those who unwrapped me and they're still unwrapping. I'm so grateful for the church I was raised in. I wish I had more time to talk about that but we've got to go on to step number three.

Now notice folks that you've got to have life from Jesus. You've got to have liberty through Jesus. Now write down number three. I must enjoy love for Jesus. **I must enjoy love for Jesus**. Experience life in Jesus.



I must exercise liberty through Jesus. I must enjoy love for Jesus. Turn to chapter 12 now and read John 12 verses 1 and 2, "Then Jesus, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany. Where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom He raised from the dead." Now notice verse 2, "There they made Him a supper and Martha served but Lazarus was one of them that set at the table with Him." Don't you like that?

Oh folks, life, liberty and now fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. He's gone from tomb to the table. He's sitting up there at the table now, no more grave clothes. There he is face to face with Jesus, wouldn't you love to have a meal with Jesus? I mean wouldn't you love to have fellowship with Him. Well you can have. That's what we have every time we come to the Lord's table. That's a meal with the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus says in Revelation chapter 3 verse 20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

You know, if you read the Bible, so many times Jesus was inviting His disciples to eat with Him. He would say, "Come and dine." People say we Baptists put too much emphasis on banquets; maybe we don't put enough. Maybe we don't put enough. Friend, it is our legacy to fellowship with one another. It is our legacy to fellowship with the Lord Jesus. "Come and dine," Jesus said, "I will have supper with him and he with Me," and now here's Lazarus sitting at the table with the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen folks, salvation is not a penalty that you pay in order to get to Heaven. I'd want to be a Christian if there were no Heaven. There is a Heaven. But just to know the Lord Jesus Christ, in this life. To love the Lord Jesus and to have Him love me back.

Well I wish I had more time there but I'm going to move on. Here's a fourth thing I want you to write down, and this is the final one. **I must express loyalty to Jesus.** Life from Jesus, liberty through Jesus, love for Jesus and loyalty to Jesus. Now you're in chapter 12, continue to read here in verse 9 through 11, "Much people are the Jews therefore knew that He was there." That is who was there. Lazarus was there. "And they came not for Jesus sake only but that they might see Lazarus whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priest consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death because by reason of him," that is by reason of Lazarus, "many of the Jews went away and believed on Jesus."

Now, here's the man, here's the man with the life, the liberty, and the love and now he's expressing loyalty. He's standing up for Jesus, he's giving testimonies for Jesus and he is dangerous to Satan's kingdom. I mean people are getting saved. They're coming to Jesus, they're being saved. Not that more dead people are getting raised; that's not the purpose of it. People are believing on Jesus, people are getting saved, they're getting eternal life! And the Pharisees there, in whom the milk of human kindness had curdled, they said, "We've got to do something about this guy. Shut him up! Put him to death!" Now you talk about a joke, that is a joke, they're going to kill Lazarus.

I want to ask you a question, do you think Lazarus was a least bit worried about that? You think about it, you think about it. Do you think that death held any more terrors for this man named Lazarus? Think about it. I mean folks he is not intimidated at all by the fact that they might put him to death. You see Satan is the sinister minister of fear and the Bible says that through the fear of death he keeps people in bondage. Lazarus is no longer afraid of death! They're going to kill him. He already knows now that he has the Lord of Life. They may destroy his body but all they'll do is hasten him on to Heaven. He knows that now.

No man is ready to live until he is no longer afraid to die. And when we're no longer afraid to die, then we live as this man Lazarus lived. And when we live our lives for Jesus, when we have life and liberty and love and fellowship and loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ then we are experiencing the life that He's talking about when He said in John 10:10, "I've come that you might have life and have it abundantly."

Now, let me just give you the bottom line of the whole thing. There're many folks here, you've got problems, you're not saved. You say, "What is the answer to my problem?" Well, it's not a what, it's who. His



name is Jesus. He is God's answer to your problem. All of these seven problems summed up in the big one called death.

Can you remember the story of the four men who brought this paralyzed man to Jesus? Let's just use a little imagination. Here are these four men, and they are saying to their friend who's totally paralyzed, "We're going to bring you to Jesus, get on this stretcher." He says to the man on this corner of this stretcher, "But look, Jesus can't do anything for me, I am totally paralyzed." But the man says, "I had blind eyes. He opened my blind eyes." He said, "That's just your eyes, I'm paralyzed all over." The man on this corner says, "But wait a minute, let me tell you about, I had a withered arm. And Jesus strengthened my arm." He said, "Yes, but that's just your arm. I'm paralyzed all over." Here's another man, "I was deaf. I couldn't hear, and Jesus opened my deaf ears." He said, "Yes, but that's just your ears. I'm paralyzed all over." Now let's just imagine a man on this corner of the stretcher says, "May I introduce myself to you? My name is Lazarus." Hello? I don't care what your problem is friend, the one who can raise the dead is the answer to your problem. You don't have a problem too big for Him. That's the reason this is the seventh in this parade of miracles. Believe in miracles, okay, but trust in Jesus. He did not come just simply to open blinded eyes, unstop deaf ears, to straightened withered arms, even to raise physical bodies temporarily from the grave; He came to save souls. "I've come that you might have life and have it abundantly." Beyond miracles and on to Jesus.

Bow your heads in prayer. Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. You need Jesus right now. If you're saved, being to pray for those round about you who may not be saved. You may not know whether they're saved or not, so just pray for them.

If you want the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." And that word believe means trust, trust Him, trust Him. Don't just believe intellectually, put your faith in Him. Trust Him. Pray this way, "Dear God, I'm a sinner. I'm lost, I need to be saved, I am dead in trespasses and sin. I need more than encouragement, I need more than education, I need more than example, I need more than environment; I need life. Lord I need You. Come into my heart. Come into my life, right now." Pray this from your heart friend, "Come into my heart, right now." Just forget anybody else is here, you can be saved this moment if you're sincere. "Lord Jesus, come into my heart, into my life, I repent of my sin. I turn from my sin, I open my heart, I receive You. Lord You're strong, but I'm weak. So begin now to make me the person You want me to be. Help me Lord. Help me to get off the grave clothes. Help me Lord to fellowship with You, even to witness for You. I need You Lord Jesus. In Your name I pray. Amen.



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