

Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John

November 8th, 2020

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Life That Death Cannot Touch (John 11:1-44)

1. Jesus demonstrates his power

2. Jesus challenges our unbelief

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

2. What are some ways our culture tries to minimize/suppress/downplay/deny the inevitability and pervasiveness of death? As a group, come up with a list of examples.

Going Deeper:

3. Upon hearing of Lazarus' death, Jesus delays in coming to his friend (vv. 5-6). Why does he delay? Why is it significant that, upon Jesus' arrival in Bethany, Lazarus has been dead for "*four days*" (vv. 17, 39)? In the popular imagination, what did this signify? What does Jesus want to reveal about himself (see vv. 25-26; see also vv. 4, 40)?
4. What are some of the reasons Jesus may have wept (v. 35; see also vv. 33-38; compare with John 12:27)? How do people express unbelief in this passage (vv. 21, 32, 37, 39)? What window does this give us into Jesus' grief and frustration? How does this passage challenge us in our unbelief?
5. Jesus says he is the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:14-15). How does Jesus lay down his life in this passage (see 11:6-7; compare with John 10:31, 39, 11:45-57) so that Lazarus may live?

Application:

6. Can you think of a time that God "*delayed*" in answering your prayer request, only to answer it in a more spectacular way? How does this text comfort us when we feel like God is absent or disinterested in our prayers?
7. How does the fear of death motivate our behavior? How might the knowledge that you have eternal life (here and now!) free you to love people in risky or costly ways?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?