



SERMON

Easter Sunday (John 11:17-25)

DATE

Apr 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

1. It is easy for the Easter season to come and go without stopping to savour the significance of what is celebrated at Easter. Were you able to savour the death and resurrection of Christ this season? Why or why not? What, if anything, struck you anew this Easter season?
2. Read John 11:5-7, 17. According to this passage, Jesus waited two days before leaving because of his love for Mary, Martha and Lazarus. In what way was this an act of love?

In verse 17, an important detail is given: "Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days". The NIV Zondervan Study Bible explains:

"Lazarus was irrevocably dead. If Jesus had left immediately, Lazarus would have been dead for only two days before Jesus arrived—not enough time to offset possible superstitions associated with resuscitations within the first three days of death."

By his stunning planning, Jesus ensured that Lazarus being raised from the dead could not be chalked up to resuscitation. Instead, Jesus planned for this to take place "for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." (John 11:4). Does Jesus' timing and plan amaze you? How does this account give you more confidence in God's timing and plan?

What are some common life situations where you lose confidence in his timing and his plan? How can your small group help you to behold the glory of God more?

3. Read John 11:34-44. This passage is ultimately the climax of this story. At the point where people are questioning whether Jesus could have *prevented* Lazarus' death (verse 37), he proceeds to *reverse* Lazarus' death.

We can often be like the people in verse 37 or Martha in verse 20-22: Either doubtful of his power or confident in his power, but puzzled by his ways.

As such, Jesus' invitation in verse 40 remains the same for us: "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

Are you truly struck to your heart of hearts that your God has power to reverse death? Is your gaze frequently enamored by the glory of God? Why do we lose our awe so quickly and so often?

4. Read John 11:23-25. Jesus' words to Martha earlier suddenly become so weighty. Not only does he have power to bring resurrection ("Your brother will rise again."), he IS the resurrection and the life. John Piper explains this stunning statement in the following way:

"This is the glory of Jesus. Jesus raised Lazarus because he is the resurrection. He is the arrival in history of God's final, glorious renovation of all things, including our bodies. Believers, you will be raised from the dead and shine like the sun in the kingdom of your Father. Lazarus is a preview of your resurrection. Jesus is coming back to this earth in power and great glory. "

Spend ample time praying with your small group meditating on this great truth. To guide your prayers further, meditate on these other resurrection truths below:

<sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

<sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

<sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:53-56

<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his

Rom 6:3-5

<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Rom 8:11

<sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Acts 2:24