Something Greater Than Easy May 2, 2021

*John 11:17-44 Series: Life, Full and Unending*

We walk through our lives so oblivious to the fact that our lives are going to end. We really don’t consider that. Ever. Almost ever. – Julia Louis-Dreyfus

Intro: Living in denial of life’s greatest certainty

1. Trust in Jesus’ hope
2. If Jesus is just your Physician, you’ll face disappointment

v. 21 *Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”*

v. 22 *“But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”*

1. Vague thoughts about the afterlife aren’t enough

v. 23 *Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”*

v. 24 *Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”*

1. Jesus calls us to trust Him as the exclusive provider of resurrection and life

vv. 25-26 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*

v. 27 *She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”*

John 6:40 *For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.*

* Why do “we walk through our lives so oblivious to the fact that our lives are going to end”?
* Why do we like to talk about Jesus as the great Physician more than as our Resurrection?
* What does it mean to trust in Jesus as “the resurrection”?

1. Receive Jesus’ compassion
2. Jesus shares our outrage at death’s pain

v. 32 *Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”*

v. 33 *When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.*

* + NLT: *a deep anger welled up within him*

v. 38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb.

* + NLT: *Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb*

1. Jesus feels our loss and grief

v. 35 *Jesus wept.*

v. 36 *So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”*

1. Jesus relates to us in compassion

Matthew 9:36 *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

Matthew 14:14 *When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.*

Mark 8:2 *I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat.*

* Why was Jesus so angry at Lazarus’ death?
* What feelings should Christians have toward death?
* Does it matter that Jesus’ actions are motivated by compassion?

1. Anticipate Jesus’ power
2. Grief can cloud our faith

v. 39 *Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”*

v. 39 *Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.”*

1. Do you believe?

v. 40 *Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”*

v. 43 *When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”*

v. 44 *Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”*

1. Lazarus’ resurrection was a sign not a solution

John 12:17-18 *The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.*

John 5:28-29 *Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*

* Why does Martha try to dissuade Jesus from having them take away the stone?
* Does it matter that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead if your loved one is still in the grave?
* What might be some of the indications that you don’t fully believe in the resurrection that Jesus provides?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study John 11:45-57

Notes