

TAKE OFF THE GRAVE CLOTHES

5/16 & 5/17

[John 11:17-44](#) – Our main focus is John 11:25, but we need the whole story to see what Jesus is telling Mary and Martha. Jesus' friend Lazarus is dead and has been in the tomb for four days. The two sisters are devastated and angry with Jesus. Jesus could have healed him, but he wasn't there. Jesus is gentle with them, and something greater is going to happen. In his conversation with Martha, he asks if she believes him. Martha does, but is confused as to what Jesus is going to do. He says that he is the resurrection and gives life to those who believe in him, but never says how this will happen. Then he does the impossible: Lazarus comes walking out of the tomb.

What do you think is going through Martha's mind during her conversation with Jesus?

What do you think she is thinking when Jesus calls for Lazarus?

What impact does this have on your spiritual journey?

Sermon Notes



Our Journey for May 11 – May 17, 2026

The Christian faith is built on unique tenets, such as the resurrection. Resurrection means coming back to life from the dead. It is not a zombie thing. It is actually being alive after you died. There are at least four scriptural references, excluding Jesus' resurrection. Elijah prays over the son of the woman who takes him. Jesus raises Jarius' daughter and Lazarus from the dead. Paul prays for the young man who fell asleep during his sermon and fell out of the second-floor window. In these instances, those who were resurrected died a second time. Our Christian belief holds that Jesus died, was resurrected, and lives eternally. He tells us that he is the resurrection and the life, and that those who believe in him will live eternally with him. We may struggle with this tenet because it doesn't make sense given our experience. We haven't seen anyone resurrected. Yet, we live in a time where we experience Jesus, and the only way we can experience Jesus is through his resurrection.

~ Pastor Seth

NOT A HAPPY THOUGHT

Mon. 5/11

[Psalm 88](#) – Not everything in the Bible brings happy thoughts. For instance, Psalm 88 is depressing. The psalmist writes about how death is all around, and raises the question in verse ten, "Do the dead praise you?" The psalmist did not have a category for the resurrection. It was a foreign concept. The psalmist is handling life as many people do today. Death is feared because we don't know what is next. We glorify youth because it gives the impression that we can stave off death. Yet, death still comes. The grief lingers over us, but hope floods our souls. Death is not the final stop. Jesus shows that the resurrection awaits those who believe his words.

What does death mean to you?

How does the resurrection help us overcome our fear of death?

THE OTHER SHOE DROPPING

Tue. 5/12

[1 Kings 17:7-24](#) – When you look at all the good things you have in life, are you waiting for the bad to happen? The prophet Elijah encountered this thought firsthand. God told him to go to Zarephath, and a widow would be able to feed him and her family. So, Elijah obeys God and finds the widow. She is preparing to bake their last piece of bread when Elijah asks for some. She gives him some and is ready to die of starvation. Something miraculous happens, the widow finds her flour jar and olive oil jug full the next day, and each day after that. She has hope, then some time later her son is sick and dies. Her grief is filled with anger at Elijah and God for giving her a false hope that everything will be ok. Elijah prays over the young man, and he is resurrected. Her faith in God returns because she sees that He can do anything.

What would you do if you were the widow? If you were Elijah?

How does this change your view on the other shoe dropping?

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Wed. 5/13

[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#) – Some images are hard to get out of the mind. The imagery of the valley of dry bones is one of them. It's like coming upon death. There is nothing but bones strewn throughout the area. God asks Ezekiel if these bones could live? Ezekiel can't answer the question, but he truly doesn't know. God tells him to prophesy over the bones. The bodies come back together. God tells him to prophesy that the bones will breathe, and they start breathing. Ezekiel has walked with God for some time, but he has never experienced this. God tells him that this is what He will do with the people of Israel. He will bring them back to life, resurrect them.

How are we like the valley of dry bones?

How is God breathing life into us now? How will He do it in the future?

LAY IT DOWN AND PICK IT UP

Thur. 5/14

[John 10:1-18](#) – Over the past few weeks, we looked at parts of John 10:1-18. We saw Jesus as the gate and the good shepherd. In verses 17-18, Jesus says some things that are hard to digest. He says that he is willing to lay down his life only to take it up again. How is this possible? Could it be a reference to his death and resurrection? Jesus has the power and authority to say no to his death on the cross. He can easily stop the religious leaders and the Roman government, but he doesn't. He walks through the pain and suffering. He willingly dies the most painful death. He lays down his life. Why? Because he loves us. He knows what is waiting for us after his death: forgiveness and the kingdom of God. He will pick up his life through his resurrection. He is the only one who can give us a glimpse of what lies ahead.

How do you interpret John 10:17-18?

How do those verses impact your spiritual journey?

PAUL'S VIEW

Fri. 5/15

[1 Corinthians 15:1-58](#) – The Corinth church was struggling with some big issues. In 1 Corinthians, Paul takes the time to share his views on their struggles and provide guidance. As this letter is drawing to a close, Paul writes about the resurrection and its importance. It is interesting to note that his words and logic still make an impact on us today. There are still people who wrestle with the meaning of Jesus' resurrection. Paul starts with physical evidence of Jesus' resurrection, those who saw Jesus. He then lays out logical arguments for the resurrection and why it is important to faith in Jesus. Take some time to read and reflect on Paul's logic.

What part makes the most sense?

How does Paul's logic help you? How does it hinder you?