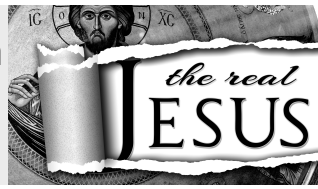


Lazarus: A Matter of Life & Death

The Real Jesus- Part 32 John 11:1-17&32-57

Noah Largent 2/14/21



1. The privilege of Prayer.

The Bible makes an astounding claim: that you can talk to the maker and sustainer of the universe! In fact, the Bible encourages us to be bold with that privilege!

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." **(also see: Lk 11:1-13; James 1:5 & 5:13; 1Thes. 5:17)**

Pastor Tim Keller makes this observation, "If you look carefully, you'll see Mary and Martha actually handled this tremendous difficulty, first by praying. They send a message to Jesus. They said, "... the one you love is sick." **Prayer should be the first resort, not the last.** Many of you have heard the statement, "Well, there's nothing left to do but pray?" Let me tell you something. If you were the last person people came to and they said, "We've tried everybody else but you. We're so desperate we're going to ask you. Can you help?" How do you feel about that? Do you feel really honored?"

-Tim Keller: "The Love of Christ" Part 1—Aug. 25, 1991

2. Prayer and the Problem of Expectation.

Correctly, Mary and Martha first seek Jesus' help! However, when He doesn't respond in their timing, Mary, clearly disappointed says, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died".

When you pray and don't get the answer or the timing you want, how do you react? What does your reaction tell you about your relationship with God?

3. The Great Exchange.

What the disciples failed to see in the moment was that Jesus' death, burial, resurrection and ascension to heaven would be the final act of Jesus' mission. He was ready. He knew that giving Lazarus life would be the final straw for the leaders in Jerusalem, leading them to crucify Him. Ultimately, Jesus gave His life for **ALL** who would put their trust in him.



Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. Everyone who prays finds that God's timing and answers are not always ours. Thinking about Mary's initial disappointment (John 11:32), what's it look like for us to pray with consistent sincerity yet be at peace with God's outcomes and not our own?
3. Go to www.sierra.church sermons page and click on "Action Plan" for this weeks message. Spend a few minutes reading Praying as Paul prayed. What can you learn about prayer from the way Paul prayed for others?

Notes:
