

## Life Out of Death

John 11:20-45

9/26/04

### Intro

Today modern science making amazing advances in technology and people are living longer than ever before.

However, in spite of all of our progress medically, the death rate still remains at 100%! You can eat healthy and exercise and live longer, but you cannot escape that death still comes to everyone.

This historic account of Lazarus being raised from the dead, however, contains a lesson we all need to fully understand; that though death will take our bodies, our soul is made alive in Jesus Christ.

He raises Lazarus as a demonstration that He has the power over death and that he has the power of life.

*These verses in our study give us lessons from the raising of Jesus' friend Lazarus that life comes out of death, but only in Jesus Christ.*

### I. **Begin with Even a Little Faith**

#### A. You could have healed him, Lord

- Some suggest that Martha is correcting Jesus for not arriving in time to help her brother.
- But I believe she is showing Jesus the faith that she does have. She is confirming her believe that Jesus was able to heal, if He had only been there.

- She is expressing regret, not doubting His heart or His character.
- We do see that Martha does have faith, if even only a little.

### Luke 12:22-32 **O ye of little faith.**

#### B. Even now I trust in You

- Verse 22. This is a great verse, because even though Martha has lost hope that her brother will live, she states her trust in Jesus' relationship with God.

**Illus – It is a very important aspect of faith to trust in the Lord's heart and character, even if you do not understand what is happening or why.**

**Illus – there is a story I read of a mother who was losing her son and a friend said in an effort to try to comfort her, "Perhaps God will be good and save your son."**

**She said in response, "God is good whether He heals my son or not."**

#### C. We often seek only what we believe is possible

- She wasn't asking for her brother to be raised, because she did not believe it was possible, which we can understand.
- But Jesus wants to increase her faith.

**Matthew 19:26, And looking at them Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”**

- Our limited faith does often keep us from seeking after great things.

**Ephesians 3:20-21, “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”**

## II. He Strengthens Our Little Faith

### A. “I am the resurrection”

- Jesus is essentially saying to Martha, *you believe in the resurrection, that is good, but what you must understand is that I am the resurrection.*
- He is giving her truth so that she can increase in her faith.
- The raising of Lazarus is done to increase all of their faith so they will know and believe that He has power over death.

**Philippians 3:8-10, “so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection...”**

### B. “I am the life”

**Illus – I was listening to some music for our choir and was reminded in it of a great truth;**

- **He didn’t just point us to the way, He is the way.**
- **He didn’t just teach us the truth, He is the truth.**
- **And He is the Life.**

- How did Jesus **become** that life for us?

- By bridging the chasm between us and God through the cross.

**Illus – How does a man get right with God? By doing good deeds?**

**This cannot make up for sins because we’re always supposed to do good deeds**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-19, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,”**

## III. Do You Believe This?

### A. It’s a question of personal faith

- Martha is asked personally if she believes.
- Each of us must answer this question ourselves.

**Illus – No one can come to the Lord on the faith of someone else; whether it be parents, or spouse, or friend.**

**John 9:35-38, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him.**

- Martha gave a great answer in verse 27. “Yes, Lord, I believe...” Though she did not fully understand everything He meant.

B. But we are often the ones standing in the way

- “But Lord,” Martha said in verse 39. She was focusing on what she thought God could do.

**Acts 5:33, “...if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.”**

- If we focus on what we believe God can’t do, we will live very limited lives. Instead, focus on what God is able to do and live in all faith.

**Daniel 3:17-18, “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”**

- God still does miracles today.

**Illus – I’ve seen Him do great wonders in my life as well as in others...**

**Illus – My friend who is a pastor was telling me this week, that a man in their church had a inoperable condition and the doctors had told him to get his life in order and prepare to die. He was healed even to the point that the doctors can find no scar tissue.**

C. Remember what He said

- Vs 40. Notice the Lord does not rebuke her, but instead encourages her faith by saying in essence *remember what I said*.

**John 5:25, “I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.”**

- Some have said that it is a good thing the Lord was specific as to who he was calling out, otherwise the grave site would have been emptied.
- Remembering what He said is how faith happens.

**Romans 10:17, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”**

Conclusion

**God invites you to receive life because He is the life. Come to Him, even if you have only a little faith and watch and see how he will encourage your faith and change your life.**