

Ricardo Scheffer: I Am the Resurrection and the Life (18/1/20)

Scripture Reading:

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.” **John 11:25**

“Though he may die, he shall live!

Why did Jesus say this?

John 11:1-3 - “Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”

Those whom Jesus loves, do they get terminally ill?

Those whom Jesus loves, do they suffer?

Those whom Jesus loves, do they have financial difficulties?

Yes! Those challenges don't change God's love.

Jeremiah 29:11 - “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

When bad things happen, it isn't God's first plan. His first plan is to give you peace.

From where does suffering come?

Job 1:16 - “While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

According to the perspective of Job's servant, the suffering coming upon Job was from the hand of God. But, from the back from the back story we see that this was not God's plan - but Satan's.

God may have a purpose for the suffering, but it is not His first plan!

“God is always on time. He is never late! We just don't like waiting.” Ricardo Scheffer

Why does He make us wait?

John 11:3 - “Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”

They prayed, but they also sent for Jesus.

John 11:6 - “So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.”

When Jesus heard the message that Lazarus was very sick, He decided to stay for a couple of days. God's will may take time to transpire, but it is always best to wait.

John 11:4 - “When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

Jesus' first response was to identify the cause of the waiting. In this case, it was to glorify God (a purpose greater than His own will).

John 11:14,15 - “Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.”

“I am glad that I wasn't there.” Why? “So that you will believe.”

John 11:41,42 - “Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You

always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

“Because of the people” - that they may believe.

John 11:8 - “The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?”

It was also unsafe for Him to go there at that present time because they had recently tried to stone Him (John 8:59; John 10:31,39,40).

John 11:11-14 - “These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.” Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.” However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”

Another reason that Jesus was so calm in the face of His friend’s sickness is that, to Jesus, death is just a sleep. Because He is the resurrection and the life!

John 11:21-25 - “Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

“If you were here, my brother wouldn’t have died.” Martha was blaming Jesus. Yet, she had some faith, as she afterward declared “whatever you ask, God will give you.”

When Jesus said to her that Lazarus would “rise again,” she passed it off and said ‘I know that he will rise again one day.’ She demonstrated that she didn’t truly trust Jesus in the now. He is the resurrection and the life!

John 11:32 - “Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Mary, like Martha, blamed Jesus for Lazarus’ death.

Our lack of faith is a painful insult to the God who has the power to do great things for us!

The Stink of Decay:

Lazarus had been dead for 4 days - so that he stank from decomposition.

Have your hopes and dreams been dead for so long that they are decomposing?

Has your marriage been dead so long that it is decomposing?

John 11:38-44 - “Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” Then they took away the stone [a]from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”

Jesus, seeing their unbelief, was pained. He wept (vs 35), He groaned (vs 38).

Jesus commanded the people to remove the stone. Why? He had the power to resurrect the dead - didn’t He also have the power to remove the stone?

If your marriage is broken, your hopes and dreams shattered, your faith is broken He will not resurrect it without your first removing the stone!

If you will believe, you will see the glory of God.

When the stone was removed, Jesus gave command that Lazarus would “come forth” from the tomb. He who was dead, decomposing and stinky came forth at the command of Jesus!

Is it ever too late for us to come back to Jesus? Never! If the stone can simply be removed, Jesus’ word to you will bring new life to you.

All your hopes and dreams, your marriage, your faith, can be resurrected if taken to Jesus.

Conclusion:

God cannot believe for you! We need to have a daily encounter with Him so that His resurrective powers can take hold in your life.

Without Jesus, we are dead! With Him, it doesn’t matter how dead we’ve been, we can be alive!