

RESURRECTION TURNS US LOOSE FROM THE SUM OF ALL OUR FEARS.

Scene 1: A friend of Jesus dies – 11:1-16

⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

Scene 2: Jesus: I Am the resurrection and the life – 11:17-27

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

²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

Scene 3: Jesus weeps – 11:28-37

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.” 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. ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

Scene 4: Jesus raises Lazarus so that people may believe – 11:38-44

Questions from the passage...

Q 1: Why did Jesus wait?

A: Jesus is after more than our short-term comfortability: He’s after our good and His glory.

Q 2: Why did Jesus weep?

A: Even in view of a coming resurrection, Jesus was moved by the catastrophic effects of sin and death.

Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Takeaways

- Jesus doesn’t **exempt** us from pain but gives us a purpose for **enduring** pain.
- Jesus had friends: He was not **above** friendship. Who are you befriending? – 11:5
- Jesus frees us from living in the past of what **might** have been. Jesus invites us to look forward to the future – 11:21-22
- Compassion for one another impacts those looking in – 11:35-36
- Jesus reminds us that some people will never be **satisfied** so don’t let them **hijack** your mission – 11:37
- Jesus gives us a **part** in His work – 11:44
- Death doesn’t get the last **word** – 11:44

Questions for us...

1) Do you believe this? – 11:26b

2) Are you prepared to die?

N. T. Wright, “He [Jesus] seems to have meant that the only way to know where you were going was to follow him. If you try to steer your course by your own understanding, you’ll trip up, because you’ll be in the dark. But if you stick close to him, and see the situation from his point of view, then, even if it means days and perhaps years of puzzlement, wondering why nothing seems to be happening, you will come out at the right place in the end.”

¹ N. T. Wright, *John for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 11-21* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004), 4.