

EASTER



Easter: Resurrection City

March 31, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture: John 11:14-44

Sermon Overview: The account of Lazarus' resurrection foreshadowed the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus arrived four days after Lazarus' death; yet Martha responded to Jesus with faith saying, "Even now, I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." By His word, Jesus raised Lazarus from the tomb. By His Word, He was raised from the tomb. And by His Word, we are raised from the tomb.

Sermon Series Question:

1. Do you believe that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. Read John 11:11-13. Why did Jesus say He was glad He was not there when Lazarus died? Can you recall a time that Jesus was "late" to your circumstance of need? How did you respond when God wasn't meeting your expectations? What was the end result? Was it better that Jesus was "late"? Why or why not? If you have experienced a hard situation that you can't understand, and you don't know why Jesus has not yet resolved it, proceed to question number two and then skip down to "Digging Deeper" question number one.
2. Read John 11:20-27. How does Martha wrestle with the Lord's absence? How does she express imaginative faith? Think of a situation that has looked and continues to look hopeless, or a situation in which the resolution seems unfair or unexplainable. How can you use your holy imagination to think of a scenario that resolves that situation for the glory of God, according to His promises?
3. Read John 11:14-44. How does the account of Lazarus foreshadow the resurrection of Jesus? What Gospel pattern can you identify? How have you seen this pattern revealed in your life?

Digging Deeper:

1. Create a Deuteronomy 29:29 file. Begin a journal of mysteries that you have encountered as a part of your life's journey. Include mysteries that God has resolved and given you revelation about and how you processed these mysteries. But also include mysteries that are still unresolved. Leave space so that you can record future revelations and resolutions to currently unresolved mysteries. Express your frustrations in your journal, but also include your imaginings of how God might be using that situation for His glory, while still recognizing that the hidden things belong to God. Include praise for the resolutions you desired and praise for Who He is, even when the resolutions you desired have not manifested.
2. Read through the Book of John. Identify the seven signs of Jesus and the seven "I am" statements. What does each miracle express about the authority and breadth of Jesus? What does each "I am" statement express about who Jesus is? How does this description of who He is provide hope for hopeless situations?

Practical Application:

- Join a group or a ministry team, or become a mission partner!
- Get into community with a small group. It's not too late. Check them all out at ncc.re/groups!!