



How to Trust God Through Tough Times - 5
Trusting God In Times of Death
North Lake Presbyterian Church
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How People Respond to Death

- 1.They choose Humor
- 2.They are in Denial
- 3.They Romanticize it
- 4.People Fear Death

Lazarus - A Story of Grief and Death (John 11:1-44)

1.Sickness turns to Death

1 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." 4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, John 11:1-6

2. The Blame Game

If you had been here, my brother would not have died. John 11:21

3. A Miraculous Prayer

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" John 11:40-43

4. From Fear to Faith The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." **45** Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. John 11:44-45

What About Us? Will Be Believe

Promise # 1: "Your brother will rise again." John 11:23

Promise # 2: "Do you believe this?"

Death is swallowed up in victory...1 Corinthians 15:54

Questions for Classes and Small Groups

1. Which of your siblings are you closest to (and why)?
2. Which friend of your has been, "closer than a brother?"
3. If you could raise one person from the dead who would it be?
4. How long had Lazarus been dead by the time Jesus arrived?
5. How would you feel if you were Mary and Martha and you heard that Jesus had finally come?
6. What do we learn about Martha by the way she talks to Jesus in verses 21-27?
7. How does Jesus stretch her faith by his claim in verse 25? How does this relate in chapter 10 verse 9.
8. What does Martha's statement in verse 27 sound like to you? (a) a stab in the dark (b) hope against hope, (c) intellectual ascent (d) active commitment? Why do you think so?
9. Since Jesus knew he was going to raise Lazarus (11:11), how do you account for his weeping? (vs. 33-35).
10. What lies behind the comments of the mourners in verse 36-37?
11. Putting yourself in the drama, how would you feel as Martha? As Lazarus? As the mourners?
12. When have you been faced with a tough situation recently that stretched your faith?
13. What would have been different for you if that struggle had recently been avoided?
14. Have you ever attended a funeral where there was no sense of eternal life? (as in verses 25-26)?
15. How did you go away from that experience? What difference does it make for you?
16. How does Jesus' response to Lazarus' death and Mary's weeping (verse 35) help you to trust him more?
17. Spiritually, do you feel like you are: still in the grave, Alive, but wearing the old grave clothes, alive and set free. Why?
18. What are some "old grave clothes" that still must be shed for you to feel free in Christ?
19. What death of a relationship, emotional scars, or other practical concerns, and past hurts now block your faith in Jesus?

TRUSTING GOD IN LIFE'S CHANGES

Trusting God In Difficult Times Pt. 1

