

March 27th - April 2nd

Cancel the Funeral

In this lesson you will learn three things to take away from the Bible story of Lazarus.

Intro: Does God have a love language? Yes, he does, but it's not touch, or acts of service, or words of affirmation. He loves it when we put our trust in what He said. We equate love with comfort, but God equates love with trust. Many people were taught that faith is a way to control the outcomes of life. The longer you think you can control the outcomes, the more frustrated you will be in your journey of faith. Your job is to trust and obey Him. God's job is to bring about the outcome. God will not be manipulated. You cannot manipulate the outcomes of your problems with faith. With God all things are possible. You are the lord of the seed. He is the Lord of the harvest.

I. Everybody has a Lazarus

- A. Everyone has a Lazarus in their life. It might be a relationship, a dream, a job/career, a child, or a part of your character. Some people's Lazarus is buried so deep you forget about it. What has died and been buried in your life? Jesus showed up too late to heal Lazarus (John 11:17). Sometimes God waits past the point of your expectation to give you a fresh wind and a fresh fire. There comes a time when friends and family cannot help you. That's when the Lord of the resurrection shows up.

II. Dealing with Disappointment

- A. We all have different ways of dealing with disappointment. Martha met Jesus at the gate, but Mary stayed at the house. Martha was frustrated that Jesus did not come four days earlier to heal her brother Lazarus. She confronted Him before he could come into her home. Jesus encourages her to believe in Him and who He is. He told her that he is the resurrection (John 11:25). He shifted her focus off of her dead brother and her disappointment to the Lord the miracle worker. After he did this, he was able to position her in faith to receive a resurrection.

III. Don't Change your mind about Who He Is

- A. Even if God shows up too late in your situation, don't forget that He is still a good God. The most-godly prayer you can pray in your struggle is the most honest and sincere prayer you pray. A delay from God is not a denial. There is a funeral going on at the same time God is trying to birth new faith in your heart. You may be angry and upset with God, but God is working out His plan for you even when you don't see it. Jesus came right to the place where their brother died, and spoke directly to the place where they were hurting the most (John 11:34-43). Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead in front of his two sisters and the mourners.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the Lazarus in your life that you have buried?
2. Have you ever been upset or angry with God?
3. Has God revealed his character to you in a new way through your struggles?