

Changed Lives

The Life, And Death, And Life Of Lazarus



Text: John 11:1-46

I. Introduction

- What do we do when it seems God is absent?
- Jesus lingered to fit God's timetable
- The Lord may linger to test our faith, even in death, the Lord's absence is only temporary
- Lazarus was in the tomb four days; the Jews believed mourning should last for three days

II. When A Good Friend Dies

- Jesus stayed for two days before going to Lazarus
- God's timetable is not our timetable
- "It is one thing for people to be revived by CPR or other forms of resuscitation but it's quite another for a man to be decomposing in the grave after four days and then be brought back to life as Lazarus was by the diving command of Jesus"...R.C. Sproul

III. When A Good Friend Is Raised Back To Life

- Jesus' sorrowful conversations with Martha and Mary
- In verse 35 (the shortest in the Bible), Jesus wept because he knew Lazarus would have to die a second time
- Take away the stone! Lazarus! Come forth!
- We are Lazarus
- Jesus calls us to a new life

IV. There Are Three Important Lessons We Need To Learn From The Resurrection Of Lazarus

- (1) This story affirms the fact of the resurrection
- Only God can resurrect the dead
- (2) It is a story that gives us hope for everyday life
- There will come a time when the doctor can do more for you, but the Lord will say "Come forth"

- (3) The story of Lazarus can be ***your*** story
- You can return loose and untied to your old self and sinful habits, and to your old meaningless empty life

V. Conclusion

- Perhaps He's calling you to come forth to Him
- He knows you personally and calls you to come forth
- "Come forth!"
- Jesus is calling
- Today you can put your trust and faith in Him
- Has God laid something on your heart today?