



Today, we're reflecting on the Easter sermon and our testimony. In John 11, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, giving us a powerful picture of what He came to do for each one of us spiritually. The truth is, we've all been spiritually dead at some point, but Jesus is the resurrection and the life—He's the One who calls us out of the grave. This discussion is a chance for us to reflect on our own story, the power of Jesus to bring new life, and what it means to truly live in the freedom He offers.

**Key Passage:** John 11:38-44

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Who was Lazarus, and what happened to him in John 11?

Lazarus was a close friend of Jesus, and he had two sisters, Mary and Martha. He became very sick, and even though his sisters asked Jesus to come, Jesus arrived after Lazarus had already died. Jesus then raised Lazarus from the dead, demonstrating His power over death.

2. What does it mean when Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life"?

Jesus isn't just talking about the future resurrection at the end of time. He's saying that resurrection is found in Him. He holds the power to raise both physically and spiritually, and life is only found through Him. It means Jesus is the source of eternal life for all who believe.

3. How does the story of Lazarus apply to your own spiritual journey?

Just like Lazarus was physically dead, we're all spiritually dead before we meet Jesus. But through His mercy and grace, Jesus calls us out of that tomb and into new life. This story reminds us that the Christian's testimony is living proof of God's power to resurrect what was once lost.

4. Why do you think Jesus was described as being "deeply moved" or even angry at the tomb of Lazarus?

Jesus wasn't angry in a casual sense—He was stirred up by the weight of death and the pain it causes people. He may have been frustrated by the unbelief of the crowd or grieved by the effects of sin and brokenness in the world. His emotion shows His compassion and also His resolve to defeat death.

5. Do you believe the church plays a necessary role in our spiritual freedom? Why or why not?

While Jesus is the One who brings life, He often uses people to help us walk in that freedom. Just like others unwrapped Lazarus from the grave clothes, people in the church can help unbind us from sin, shame, and isolation. Church is not just a place to attend—it's a family to belong to.

6. What's one step you can take to get more connected to your church family and let others help "unbind" you?

You could start by committing to faithfully attending your small group and/or joining the Deam Team, allowing others to really know you. We need people in our lives who can speak the truth, offer prayer, and walk with us through our struggles. Jesus saves us and places us in a community so we don't have to walk alone.

7. Why is it significant that Jesus waited until Lazarus had been dead for four days before raising him?

It emphasizes the finality of death and how impossible the situation seemed. By waiting, Jesus showed that His power isn't limited by time or human constraints. He waited so that there would be no doubt that a miracle had occurred.

8. If you were to write your own testimony, how would you describe your "before," your moment of salvation, and your "after"?