

The Tears of God (John 11:17-57)

Pastor Deric

(17) Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. (18) Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, (19) and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. (20) So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. (21) Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (22) But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." (23) Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." (24) Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." (25) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (27) She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

(28) When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." (29) And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. (30) Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. (31) When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. (32) Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (33) When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. (34) And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." (35) Jesus wept. (36) So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" (37) But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

(38) Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. (39) Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." (40) Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" (41) So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. (42) I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." (43) When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." (44) The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

(45) Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, (46) but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. (47) So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. (48) If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." (49) But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. (50) Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." (51) He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, (52) and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. (53) So from that day on they made plans to put him to death. (54) Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

(55) Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. (56) They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?" (57) Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him. [John 11:28-57 ESV]

Practical Application

1. What is the solution to your opponent of death?
2. How can you win against death?
3. You vs. Death= Death wins
4. Jesus vs. Death= Jesus wins!
5. You+Jesus vs. Death= You win!
6. Do you live a life celebrating the wins of Jesus?
7. Eventually illness, sickness, or disease uncured leads to death.
8. Only Jesus can overcome our opponent of illness, sickness, and disease.
9. Jesus loved Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and He loves you.
10. Jesus will be glorified by raising all believers from the dead to everlasting life. Your story will end in His glory, and your eternal good.

11. It is never too late with Jesus.
12. Jesus can awaken you from any kind of death you might experience (physical, spiritual, relational, vocational, financial, etc.).
13. Sometimes God will let something die so that His glory is seen in greater and more miraculous ways as He blesses His people.
14. Jesus loves taking beyond hopeless situations and bringing forth great good from them.
15. Everyone in Christ will rise again, no matter your fall. Rise up today.
16. Jesus is the resurrection and the life.
17. If you have trusted in Christ you will live forever with God.
18. If you have trusted in Christ you will never die because you have eternal life now.
19. Jesus is calling for you. Will you respond to Him today?
20. Jesus has feelings. Jesus emotes. Jesus weeps.
21. Invite Jesus into your most difficult problems.
22. Jesus can open blinded eyes, He can keep someone from dying, and He alone can raise the dead.
23. Roll away any stones that are keeping you or others from being transformed by Jesus.
24. Only Jesus can change dead men and women.
25. Let Jesus into the darkest and most smelly parts of your life.
26. Faith will enable you to see the glory of God.
27. Take away stones that are keeping people from Jesus.
28. All the intercessory prayers of Jesus for you are heard and answered in God's way and on God's timetable.
29. Only the voice of Jesus can raise the dead.
30. Come out of the tomb today.
31. What part are you playing unbinding those that Jesus is setting free?
32. Will you choose Jesus over your country, prominence, and pride?
33. Jesus is the great substitute that died in our place so we could live.
34. Jesus is not just a King and Prophet, He is also a compassionate and sympathetic Priest.
35. Jesus loves the people of the world and He is gathering them into His family.
36. Only Jesus, the true Passover Lamb, can make us pure.
37. Only Jesus can sympathize with us in our suffering, pain, sorrow, and brokenness.
38. Only Jesus can heal, transform, and renew your emotions (he-motions or she-motions).
39. Lazarus's death and resurrection were really about Jesus's death and resurrection. This story, the entire Bible, and all human history is about Jesus. Have you surrendered your life to Him?

Announcements

1. The Men's Ministry will meet today (March 26) after worship. Lunch is provided.
2. RESURRECTION SUNDAY (Easter): On Sunday, April 2 (9am) we will be having an egg hunt for all the kids at Hope Mountain. Please bring your basket and be ready for some fun! There will be snacks, a picture booth, and more. Please invite your friends and family. If you can bring eggs or candy to donate that would be great. There will be a bin in the lobby. Please email Tiffany Vick at bwvick@yahoo.com if you have any questions.
3. Good Friday Service! We will be having a Good Friday worship service on Friday April 7, 2023, starting at 6:30 PM. Invite friends and family. The service will also include communion. We look forward to seeing you all there.
4. New Kids Ministry Leader. It's official, HMC Kids has a new ministry leader. HMC is happy to announce Tiffany Vick as the new HMC Kids Ministry Director. She comes with great qualifications and a heart for GOD and His children. We look forward to the wonderful things she will bring to the ministry. It is also with great respect, gratitude, and praise that we say THANK YOU to Ms. Diane Davis as she transitions out of that role. She has done an amazing job these past few years! We are thankful for her kindness and heart for service. If you see either Diane or Tiffany, please let them know how much you appreciate them.
5. Business Meeting: We will have the next church business meeting on Sunday April 16 immediately following service. The budget will be discussed and approved at this meeting so please try to attend if you can.
6. HMC Kids is in need of volunteers. They are in need of people to help in the nursery, especially during small group time (9:00 am-10:15 am) each Sunday. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Tiffany Vick.