

John 11

The Resurrection and the Life

Final Event we will FACE on this EARTH - Bible calls it LAST Enemy

Bible talks HONESTLY about DEATH – We should consider it SERIOUSLY

1. Reality of Death 2. Reactions to Death 3. Resurrection from Death

1. Reality of Death

a. Fixed > 2 Things in Life CERTAIN: Taxes and Death > NO EXCEPTIONS

vs. 1-3 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 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. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "*Lord, the one you love is sick.*"

1st Mention of L,M,M in John: But Familiar to John's Readers > Beloved Friends
Mary & Martha SURPRISED: How could someone Loved by Jesus GET SICK?

Pastor in Hawaii > Woman popped in Office "I am NEVER going to DIE!"

Did NOT Challenge Her – NEVER DIE! – O.K. Go For it! – Never Saw Again
Over 20 yrs Ago – Maybe she DIED? – ONLY God KNOWS

Some Churches BAN NEGATIVE Words > Sickness, Problems, Pain, Failure
BANNING Words will NOT MAKE > TRAGIC REALITY Go Away!

Sickness and Death of Believer is NOT Incompatible with LOVE of Jesus

Man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward. Job 5.7

...In this world you will have trouble... John 16.33

Men of God are still men. The covenant of grace is not a charter of exemption from sickness, pain, and death. Charles Spurgeon

SICKNESS, DEATH, TROUBLE > VERY REASON that Jesus CAME

b. Falsehood > Everyone will Die, BUT NOT ME! Or MY Friends, Family

vs. 11-14 "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "*Lazarus is dead*"

Pastor / Friend in Hawaii – Teenage SON DIED > Got WORD from God

He would RISE from Dead – Kept Body at Home – Called church Members

Gathered for PRAYER – Whole TOWN Watched in CURIOSITY

Days Passed – Body Decomposed – Gov't Ordered REMOVED

FAITH of Many Shaken, incl Pastor – Church CLOSED – Town CONFUSED

SPIRITUAL Deception: Think Never will Die > Never Get PREPARED to DIE!

WEALTHY Man who was Financial Advisor DIED w/OUT WILL

USA > Die with No Will > Gov't, Not your Family, takes BIG CHUNK \$\$

MOST People, DO NOT have a WILL > Most People think they'll NOT DIE!

Jesus tells of MAN More Interested in INVESTMENTS than in ETERNITY:

TOLD HIMSELF: "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'"

Luke 12.19-20

c. Finality? > Nothing is as UNCHANGING as a GRAVEYARD

v. 39 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

Return to Dust, NOTHINGNESS, ANNIHILATION, Existence DISAPPEARS

IDEAS that are WIDELY BELIEVED in the WORLD TODAY

DEATH is ENEMY – LAST Enemy, but NOT the WORST Enemy

Death is NOT the END > Only BEGINNING of ETERNITY > Heaven or Hell

Man is destined to die once, and *after that* to face judgment Hebrews 9.27

d. Fear REASON Why DENY it > Punch to Solarplexus, Wake up Cold Sweat

I am not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens. Woody Allen

WEAPON in DEVIL'S HAND: ...him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil...those who all their lives were held in slavery by their *fear of death*

Hebrews 2.14-15

In this FALLEN WORD > Prince of this World > HOLDS FEAR OF DEATH

Only Jesus can FREE us from FEAR > Only Jesus DEFEATED Satan & Death

Jesus Christ...the firstborn from the dead...“I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”
Revelation 1.5,18

GREATEST 'I AM' Statement in John > vs. 25,26 Jesus said to her, "*I am the resurrection and the life*. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die”

Even though I walk through the valley of the *shadow of death*, I will *fear no evil*, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23.4

SHEEP are NOT AFRAID of DEATH > Their Good Shepherd DIED for THEM

e. Fleeting > Death is TEMPORARY > Cannot be Measured by Time

DEATH is PASSAGEWAY, a DOOR-WAY to the NEXT LIFE

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
2 Corinthians 5.8

Dying Man next to Dying Jesus: "Jesus, remember me *when* you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, *today* you will be with me in paradise."
Luke 23.42-43

Funeral of Sir Winston Churchill > Bugler high in Dome of St. Paul's Cathedral
Played TAPS > Military Song to Mark END of the DAY > Sad, Somber Moment
FINISHED TAPS > Immediately played REVEILLE > Tune: BEGIN NEW Day

End of THIS LIFE is Only Beginning of NEW DAY > Eternal Day in Christ

v. 14 "Lazarus is dead, *and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.*" > STRANGE REACTION?? GLAD??

SLEEP > Harmless! > Healing! > WHY SLEEP? > To Wake Up & Keep Going!

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. Psalm 116.15

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." Revelation 14.13

DEAD & DEEDS are GOING SOMEWHERE > LIVE > ETERNAL DESTINY

2. Reactions to Death

a. Mourners: Commerce

Cannot be PASTOR in America without seeing BIG DOLLARS in DEATH

Always STEADY WORK in FUNERAL Industry > Grandma needs Gold Coffin

Even POOR Jewish Family: Hire at least 2 FLUTE Players, 1 Wailing Woman

EXPENSIVE PERFUME Mary poured on Jesus > Probably RICH Family

FULL STAFF of Money Grubbing Grievors were Likely PRESENT

v. 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.

b. Jews: Comfort

63 X's John uses word 'Jews' > MOST Not Flattering > ENEMIES of Jesus

NOT Anti-Semitic > John is Jew, Jesus, Apostles, First Church > JEWISH

v. 19 many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.

Some South American's call people who live in USA > YANKEES

Go to Southern States of USA ask "Where are Yankees?" > NORTHERN States

Go Northern States ask “Where are Yankees?”> Yankee Stadium in Bronx, NYC

JEW for John > Jewish Religious LEADERS who Rejected Jesus their Messiah
John the Jewish Apostle NOT Anti-Semitic – Not AGAINST Jewish People
Ref. ‘Jews’ here > MOSTLY POSITIVE > Sincere Comfort to Grieving Friends

ANTI Unbelief > Jew or Gentile > REJECTING JESUS Unforgivable Sin

Jesus is ONLY GATE > Only THROUGH Him > Can ENTER SALVATION

vs. 31,33 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.... the Jews who had come along with her also weeping

TRUE SINCERITY OF HEARTS REVEALED: v. 45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

c. Sisters: Confusion > Very UNDERSTANDABLE QUESTION for Jesus

v. 17-21 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, *"if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*

Striking Similarity with Luke 10 > Rushing Martha / Reflective Mary

Grieving Sisters said SAME THING for FOUR DAYS > *Where was Jesus!?*

He's Really Not MUCH of FRIEND > What kind of GOOD SHEPHERD is He?

FOUR DAYS > Rabbis believed SOUL Hovered over Body for THREE Days

Looking for Sign of LIFE > 4th Day > DECOMPOSITION BEGINS > Soul Flees

v. 32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*

Commentators SPECULATE: Where was Jesus? When exactly did Lazarus die?
 PROVIDE an EXCUSE for Jesus: Why He was Late? Why did not Run to Heal?

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus MORE than a MAN > Wisdom, Power, Purpose DIVINE
 TIMELESS, ETERNAL GOD visiting World bound by TIME and SPACE

Had he been only human, He would have hurried to the bedside of Lazarus to give what he could of aid and comfort. Knowing, however, that He was the resurrection and the life, it was just as easy to raise the dead as to cure the sick, and far more necessary to His purpose to fix faith in the souls of the sisters and his disciples.
 Merrill C. Tenney

Jesus does NOT NEED our Excuses > He can DEFEND HIMSELF

AMBULANCE > USA: Sirens Wail TRAFFIC STOPS...Pulls Over...PASS BY

BEIJING: Sirens Wail / Lights Flash – Nobody Moves – Patients DIE?

He is an ON-TIME GOD > Never Early, Never Late > God's Clock Not SLOW

v. 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light."

d. Thomas: Commitment > REAL THREAT against Jesus in Jerusalem

v. 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

...the Jews tried all the harder to kill him...

John 5.18

Jesus to Jews: "Why are you trying to kill me?" John 7.19

...the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?"

John 7.25

Jesus: "I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word."

John 8.37

Jesus to Jews: "...you are determined to kill me" John 8.40

ALL this DIALOGUE in JERUSALEM > Center of FIERCE OPPOSITION
DISCIPLES Know STORM will BREAK There, Naturally Want STAY AWAY
vs. 7,8 Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they
said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back
there?"

v. 16 Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also
go, that we may die with him."

Thomas reflects not doubt but raw devotion and courage, even though it was
courage shot through with misunderstanding... his words have become a clarion
call to would-be disciples, after the resurrection, to take up their cross daily and
follow Jesus. D.A. Carson

Very POSSIBLY, Words carried THOMAS all the way to INDIA > Plant Church

e. Jesus: Consternation > RAGING MAD and OVERWHELMINGLY SAD
vs. 33-35 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with
her also weeping, he was *deeply moved in spirit and troubled*. "Where have you
laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. *Jesus wept*.

v. 33 > 'outraged in spirit' / 'indignant and angry' / 'to snort like a horse'

THE WAY SOME PEOPLE LAUGH!

Death, Sin, Hell, Satan make Him RAGING MAD > Open Grave – Face Enemy
Few more WEEKS > SWEAT DROPS of BLOOD in Garden of Gethsemane

MAIN EVENT Coming Up: The reason the Son of God appeared was to
destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3.8

DEATH NOT NORMAL, Peaceful, Complete, Meaningful, Natural > ENEMY!

He displays all the disgust of the Creator whose good creation has been marred
and scarred by the presence of an evil intrusion. Mark Johnstone

FUNERAL SERVICES > Words of Comfort > at least WANT TO COMFORT
 Look at Dead Body > 'so Peaceful''Natural' ...'just like always' ...'Happy'!?
 They're DEAD! > OUTRAGE! > SCANDAL! > Robbed of GOD-GIVEN LIFE!
 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1 Corinthians 15.26

Better to just SHUT UP and CRY WITH THEM > Like Jesus Did – Jesus Wept!
 vs. 35,36 Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

One who will COMMAND an END TO ALL DEATH
 CRIES before the HORROR of DEATH HERE and NOW

3. Resurrection from Death

a. Platitude > Dull, Tired, Worn-Out Expression > Say It, *Maybe* we Believe It

vs. 22-24 Martha: "But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "*I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.*"

For SOME Historic, Supernatural Intervention by a Personal, Transcendent God
 BOLD CONFESSION but No Longer BURNING CONVICTION > Lost in FOG
 ...having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power 2 Timothy 3.5

Man visited POOR FAMILY in French Village > 1000 Francs Note in Wallpaper
 Given by Soldier they Nursed during War > Died There > Note of Remembrance
 Gift of Gratitude, Payable by Surviving Family > Stuck on Wall, not Exchanged
 We can KNOW JESUS > Know Bible Verses > FOG of FAITHLESSNESS

b. Purchase – High Priest unknowingly explained Substitutionary Atonement

vs. 51-53 Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said "...it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

UNSTOPPABLE Attraction > People COMING to FIND & FOLLOW Jesus
2000 yrs Later – STILL UNSTOPPABLE – Even by Most Powerful Nations!
SOVEREIGN Lord Jesus DIRECTS Words of God-Hating Religious Leader
In their TWISTED Minds become Human INSTRUMENTS of His DEATH!

Here WE Are – SCATTERED Children of God > SAVIOR who DIED for US!

c. Proven LAST Day is NOW in Jesus: Kingdom Come, King is in the House!

John's EVIDENCE of DEITY: MIRACLES, Now 7th, Most DRAMATIC SIGN

AND Greatest 'I AM' Declaration of the 7 in John's Gospel

1) Word

vs. 25,26 Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Promise of SPIRITUAL Life & PHYSICAL Life > NOW and World TO COME

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live." John 5.24,25

2) Deed

vs. 43,44 Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 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."

MANY a Preacher said > IF Did not SPECIFY Name Lazarus > All DEAD Rise!

7th SIGN > Points to JESUS – Once and For All - Death & Resurrection

Lazarus RESUSCITATION > Rose to DIE AGAIN

TEMPORARY Resuscitation: Dress REHEARSAL > Jesus RESURRECTION

God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 2.24

...the power of an indestructible life

Hebrews 7.16

"Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15.54-57

d. Preached > GREAT NEWS! TELL DYING PEOPLE > Word of Life!

Man named PAUL met RISEN JESUS, Could NOT STOP Talking about HIM

This grace...has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has *destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light* through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1.9,10

Ch 11: THEME of Jesus Sermon?? Very Life? GLORY OF GOD!! Same for Us!

v. 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."

vs. 40-42 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 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."

To Experience GRACE of God One Must BEHOLD the GLORY of God

SEE Glory in FACE of Jesus Christ > Resurrection and Life > Be Transformed

e. Prying v. 26 "Do you believe this?" – Preacher is MEDDLIN'

Not enough to HEAR Promise of God > Must Believe and Receive Him

Must be Bold, At Risk of PRYING > Ask Direct, Eternally Important Question

Jesus is...asking... if her faith can go beyond quiet confidence that her brother will be resurrected at the last day to personal trust in Jesus as the resurrection and the life.

D.A. Carson

NOT ASKING > Do you FEEL BETTER NOW? > back to Old Confident Self??

FEELINGS are CHANGING > Promises of God are CONCRETE

Not VAGUE, GENERAL BELIEF > 'Do you believe THIS' > Truth of Jesus

Man interviewed for CHURCH MEMBERSHIP > What do you believe?

MAN > I believe what the Church believes.

ELDERS > What does the Church believe?

MAN > The Church believes what I believe.

ELDERS > Just what do you and the Church believe??

MAN > We believe the same thing.

v. 27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

BINGO! That is WINNING ANSWER! > She wins God's GRAND PRIZE!

So will all who BELIEVE This > Believing, we will have LIFE in HIS NAME!

There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to *all who have loved his appearing*.

2 Timothy 4.8

Woman Missionary > Life's Work in Tunisia among Muslims

World's Standards > Very Little Success > Persistent, Prayerful, Hard Working

Taught English > Free Lessons > Platform for Discussion about Jesus Christ

Young Tunisian Man > Wanted English, NOT JESUS > Quarreled Sometimes

Woman Kept Silent about Jesus, Just did her best to Teach him English > Months

Young Man accepted into University > Came for 'Goodbye' cup of Tea

Woman wanted to Preach again but Kept Silent > Walked him to Door

He got to Garden Gate, Turned back to See Her Last Time, Tears down her
Face

His Resistance to the Love of Christ was **BROKEN**

He Walked Path, Into Living Room: Prayed to Receive Jesus as Savior & Lord

Some of US > In Foreign Land > Weeping for the Lost?

At HOME > Weeping for Mother, Husband, Child, Neighbor?

Maybe thru You & Me: Servants of Risen Christ > Jesus Weeps, Loves, & Saves

First Sign: <i>New Wine</i>	Final Sign: <i>New Life</i>
Private Wedding: Cana in Galilee	Public Funeral: Bethany in Judea
Faith Born: ‘his disciples put their faith in him.’ John 2.11	Faith Bolstered: Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." John 11.16
Praise: When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done... John 4.45	Persecution: So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him. John 12.10-11
the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed...He thus revealed his glory John 2.11	Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" John 11.40

John 11: 1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” 4 But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” 8 The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” 9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” 11 After saying these things,

he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." 13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, 15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." 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.”

1. In what ways do we see the glory of God in the events of John 11?
2. How would you feel if your close relative became a “teaching example” for Jesus the way Lazarus seems to have been?
3. What do we learn about facing death from Jesus prayer (11.39-42)?
4. How would you understand Jesus’ claim as “the resurrection” if Lazarus were not risen?
5. Even with these seven clear “signs” of Jesus deity in John He was still widely rejected. Why?