

SERMON: NO MATTER HOW BAD IT GETS, JESUS CAN FIX IT!

John 11:20-21; John 11:39-44a

(20) Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him: but Mary sat still in the house. (21) Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

(39) Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto Him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. (40) Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? (41) Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank Thee that thou hast heard Me. (42) And I knew that Thou hearest Me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me. (43) And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. (44) And he that was dead came forth.

Introduction

God is a good God. In fact, “He is good all the time and all the time He is good.” Yet, sometimes our problems can overwhelm us. Let’s keep it real. Sometimes His action, inaction, or delays can baffle us. Sometimes His ways just doesn’t make sense to us. We praise Him in our pain. We worship Him when we are weary. We praise Him despite our frustrations. We bless Him in our bereavement.

This Scripture records the perfect spiritual storm. There was a severe problem and Jesus did not do what they thought He ought to have done. Their expectations of Him were not met. It appeared the problem had deteriorated so badly until no one—not even Jesus—could fix it. We know, and the conclusion of the story proves it, that no matter how bad it gets, Jesus can, indeed, fix it. Let me say that again. No matter how bad it gets, Jesus can fix it. Let’s review this well-known narrative and reaffirm this important spiritual and practical principle.

Exposition

1. An Urgent Cry for Help.

(Lazarus Was Seriously Sick.)

(His Sisters Sent For Jesus.)

2. Sovereign, Strategic Slothfulness.

(Jesus Remained Two Days After He Received The News.)
(There Was Purpose in His Procrastination.)
(There Was A Reason Behind His Reluctance.)

3. Disappointment Was Added To Grief.

(A Bad Situation Got Worse.)
(Lazarus Died And Jesus Had Not Come To See About Him.)

4. The Frustration Of The Faithful.

(Jesus Arrived After the Funeral Was Over.)
(Martha Gave Him A Piece Of Her Mind.)
(Mary Would Not Speak To Him.)

5. Jesus Took Charge In Spite Of Their Skepticism.

(An All Powerful God Does Not Have To Rush.)
(He Gave Two Commands To Participate In The Process.)
("Show Me Where You Laid Him.")
("Take Away the Stone.")
(God Will Not Do For Us What We Can Do For Ourselves.)

6. A Command to Reclaim Life.

(Lazarus, Come Forth.)
(Lazarus Walked Out Of the Tomb.)
(God Was Glorified In A Mighty Way!)

Closing Thoughts

As we celebrate Holy Communion let us remember that Jesus died to solve humankind's greatest problem. That problem is sin and its eternal consequences. He raised Lazarus as a foretaste of believers' destiny to live with Him forever. We step into this destiny when we are washed and covered by His blood. Our faith may be frustrated, but we must remember that our Savior is faithful. He is faithful even when we are not. No problem is too big for Him to solve. "He may not come when you want Him, but He's always on time!" Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

Related Scripture

John 11:1-45

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