

## **GRAVESIDE LESSONS**

John 11:17-44

Introduction:

### **LESSON #1 – In Matters of Life and Death, Look to God for the Answers**

A) Learn from Lazarus' sisters – the students whose current life experience is darkened by death

> Martha's response to Jesus' arrival (John 11:20)

> Mary's response to Jesus' arrival (John 11:28-29)

B) Listen to Jesus – the expert on life and death

> Another, "I AM" statement

Jesus is the Essence of life (John 1:1-4; 14:6)

Jesus is the Answer to death (1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 55-57)

### **LESSON #2 – In Spite of Circumstances Believe God's Promises (John 11:20-27)**

A) John points a spotlight upon Martha's belief in this story

> The story begins with a messenger sent by Mary and Martha to Jesus (John 11:3)

Surely this messenger communicated Jesus' response to Mary and Martha (John 11:4)

Jesus' question in verse 40 indicates that Martha knew what He had promised

> Jesus doesn't excuse Martha's faltering belief because Lazarus is dead ... He confronts it.

B) Sorrow and grief are understandable at the graveside ... but they must be tempered by hope

> Lazarus' death is all too real

He's been dead for 4 days

> Jesus promise should produce real hope (John 11:38-40)

### **LESSON #3 – God Doesn't Like Unbelief**

#### A) Jesus' response to the "mourning" (John 11:33)

##### > Word studies

Groaned – It carries the idea of indignation even outrage - anger (Mark 1:43; 14:5)

Troubled - Intense or strong emotion (Matthew 14:26; Luke 1:12)

##### > Jesus response to those who are grieving is not compassion

Jesus is not happy with the "unbelief" that is behind this display

He has said, "This sickness will not end in death."

He has said, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps ... let's go wake him up."

He has said, "Your brother will rise again."

Instead of a crowd anxiously waiting to see Jesus, the resurrection and the life, raise Lazarus from the dead for the glory of God ... they mourn hopelessly in unbelief.

Why did Jesus weep?

He weeps over the hardness of hearts and unbelief (Luke 19:41-44)

#### B) God Doesn't Like Unbelief

##### > God's response to the unbelief of a Samaritan officer to the Word of the Lord (2 Kings 7:1-2)

##### > Jesus' response to Peter as he began to sink in the water (Matt 14:25-32)

CONTRAST: God finds pleasure in those who walk by faith (Hebrews 11:6)

### **LESSON #4 – Life After Death Changes Everything**

#### A) Resurrection changed everything in this story of Lazarus (John 11:4, 43-44)

##### > Instead of great grief ... overwhelming joy

##### > Instead of doubt ... belief

#### B) Resurrection changes everything in the story of our lives

##### > Resurrection tempers our sorrow and comforts us (1 Thess 4:13-18)

##### > Resurrection points us to our need for Jesus Christ (John 5:25-30)