

Knowing Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life**John 11 Discussion Questions**

3/12/17

1. The main problem we see in John 11 is that, like Lazarus, we all die. Have you had much experience with death? Explain.
2. In response to death, some people are consumed by trying to prevent death in an unhealthy way. Have you known someone like this? On the other hand, some people respond to death by ignoring it. Have you known someone like this? Why do you think people often don't deal with death in a healthy way? Can you think of other examples of responding to death in a way that's unhealthy?
3. The good news is that we have a solution to the problem of death. **Read vv.23-25.** Martha believes in a future resurrection, but Jesus wants her to recognize He is the resurrection. What does this mean? What does Jesus want Martha to come to believe?
4. In **vv.43-44**, Jesus calls out Lazarus from the tomb. The text doesn't give us a lot of detail about this experience other than the fact that "he came out." Does it surprise you that we don't get more details? If this event in John 11 is not primarily about Lazarus and his experience, what is the point of this event?
5. It was mentioned in the sermon that we should be skeptical about the "heavenly tourism" books/moves that tell about people's experience of going to heaven or hell and returning to tell us about it (and make lots of money). Do you agree with the idea that we should be critical of this? Explain?
6. When we read **vv.4-6**, it sounds like Jesus is glad Lazarus died and he intentionally waited to visit Lazarus. How would you explain these verses to someone who was confused about this?
7. In **v. 14** we learn there is something worse than dying: not believing in Jesus. Do you agree and do you live as if not believing in Jesus is worse than dying?
8. One reason Jesus is able to reverse the curse of death is because of the suffering he experiences in his life. We learn Jesus becomes angry and cries in **vv.33-35**. Does it surprise you that Jesus responds in this way? What do we learn about Jesus from this account? Why should this encourage us to go to Him when we are hurting?
9. A second reason Jesus is able to reverse the curse of death is because of the suffering he experiences in his death. We learn that God can and does bring about good from something bad like death. How do we see this in the story of Lazarus? How do we see this in the story of

the cross? In these two stories we can fairly easily connect the dots and see how God uses this for good (**Rom 8:28**). However, when we experience pain and suffering, we often can't connect the dots in this same way. Why? Even if we can't connect the dots, how can we use these examples to help us affirm the truth of Romans 8:28?

10. A third reason Jesus is able to reverse the curse is because of his resurrection. What are some of the differences between Lazarus' resurrection and Jesus' resurrection?
11. If we truly believe Jesus rose from the grave, how should this affect us when we have a loved one who dies? How should it affect us when we are facing death ourselves?