

The Lord's Victory

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #44)

John 11:38-44

A. Stones have never really stood in God's way

B. We are in the midst of John 11 - the story of Lazarus' resurrection

THE PRELUDE (JOHN 11:38-40)

A. John reminds us that this is a deeply moving experience for Jesus (11:38)

1. This is the second time in the last six verses; John notes that Jesus is hurt

"Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" (11:37)

2. They still don't "get it." They still don't "trust" Him. And Jesus grieves...

3. An historic face off - the *Resurrection and the Life* face to face with death

B. 11:39 - "*Martha says, 'But, Lord, it stinks already. He's been dead four days!'*"

1. Jesus' reply is designed to be reassuring rather than angry: "*Martha, if you just believe you will actually [soon] see the glory of God!*" (11:40)

"This is for God's glory, so that God's Son may be glorified through it" (11:4)

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die, and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this, Martha?" (11:25)

2. Seeing is not necessarily believing; but believing is seeing...

THE PRAYER (JOHN 11:41-42)

A. Jesus lifts his eyes to heaven (God is always seen as "above")

1. Jesus thanks his Father for answering prayer...

"Before my people call, I will answer; while they are yet speaking, I will hear"
(Isaiah 65:24)

2. Jesus tells his Father he is praying this way to model his trust

3. Jesus wants his listeners to be/become believers in Him

B. Jesus and John are all about getting people to believe/trust in Jesus

1. And that begins by recognizing that the Father sent Jesus

2. A part of Jesus' mission is to get human beings to believe in his mission

THE PERFORMANCE (JOHN 11:43-44)

A. An immovable object has an irresistible force; the Word of Christ and the depth of death in mortal combat - Christ conquers!

1. When you face death; you need to come from a position of strength: Roar!

2. Jesus said (John 10:3), a Good Shepherd calls his "sheep" by name

"The time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the son of God and those who hear it will live." (John 5:25)

B. John's Gospel contains seven signs of Jesus

1. Jesus would make wine from water (2:1-11); heal the official's son (4:46-54); heal a man sick for 38 years (John 5:1-15); multiply loaves and feed over 5000 (6:5-14), walk on water (6:16-24); and open the eyes of a man born blind (9:1-7)

2. But conquer death? Who could imagine! Roar!

a. Jesus' resurrection will remind the Church that God will raise up all people on the last day when Christ returns

b. But now Jesus' seventh and climatic sign shows the Church/World that his own Word - in his Father's answer to his prayer - defeats death now!

3. This is no small lesson

C. For Jesus, this was no big deal; Lazarus was dead, now he is alive

1. That's the "business" Jesus is in - making "dead" people "alive"

2. Jesus gives another command: "*Unwrap him and let him go home!*"

a. The church is commissioned to help out wherever Jesus is at work

b. Many who have come to a new life still need unwrapping and help

3. Tonight we go home; tomorrow we go to work/school - life goes on

a. And then Jesus comes to be with us so we might see the glory of God!

b. Remember the seed...and the tree (of Calvary) and the power of God