

VBC
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John 11:1-44
March 29-30, 2008

“Hope For a Broken World”

- I. Intro.
 - a. How was your “Easter”
 - b. My favorite Easter
 - i. In east asia, where Easter is called “Jesus Christ Resurrection Day Festival.”
 - ii. On an island with college students we came up with what we believed should be the traditions of the church in celebrating Resurrection Day. Some seemed funny to me as an American. On the other hand, I took my kids to see a giant bunny hiding eggs on a golf course last weekend.
 1. that this would be a holiday spent with the brothers and sisters
 2. That we should greet everyone with the words, “Happy Jesus Christ Resurrection Day Festival!”
 3. That we would wander around in graveyards and if people asked what we were doing we would say... “We’re looking for Jesus but we can’t find him!”
- II. John 11
 - a. Last week Pastor John talked about resurrection and why it matters
 - b. Today we’re going to talk about resurrection and how it impacts our everyday lives
 - c. Read through John 11:1-41 (close your eyes and imagine what you would hear, smell, taste, feel)
- III. The reaction of Martha and Mary and others
 - a. Martha
 - i. Martha, v 21. “If you had been here...” (response 1)
 - ii. “I know God will give you whatever you ask” (response 2)
 - iii. V 27 “I believe you are the Christ.” (response 3)
 - b. Mary
 - i. Weeping.
 - ii. “if you had been here”
 - c. The friends of Martha, Mary and Lazarus
 - i. Weeping and comforting
 - ii. “See how he loved him.”
 - iii. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?
 - d. OUR RESPONSE to death and suffering
 - i. Our miscarriage

- ii. "I know you are good, I know you are Christ. I know you have power to heal and that you love me. BUT WHERE WERE YOU WHEN MY BABY WAS DYING?"
 - e. We all have these moments
 - i. Christ exists, he's good, he loves us
 - ii. But why didn't he intervene?
- IV. Let's look now, at Christ's response
 - a. "I'm glad I wasn't there so that you may believe." (11:15)
 - b. He assures Martha that all will be put right
 - i. "You brother will rise again"
 - ii. "I am the resurrection" (11:25)
 - c. He wept (v33)
 - i. Why did he weep? (ask the audience)
 - 1. Because Lazarus is dead? Why not earlier then? (v 33, 35, 38)
 - 2. Let's look at Jesus' unique perspective
 - a. Genesis 1:24-27 "Let us make man in our own image"
 - i. Image (s<|<x)... used as a political/territorial marker (i.e. Alexander or the King of Thailand)
 - b. We were created to be in His image... a representation of his power, dignity, goodness, influence and authority
 - i. (Why did Satan tempt us? Why did he care? To strike at God's image was a supreme act of rebellion)
 - ii. (Why is murder such a big deal if we continue to exist?)
 - iii. (No graven images, no lying, no adultery... partly because as images of God our every action makes a theological statement. Graven images are woefully inadequate. When I lie I claim God is a liar, when I am adulterous I say he is unfaithful... etc)
 - c. We were not DESIGNED to die. God is eternal and he created his images to be the same way.
 - d. Thus, we were not equipped to *mourn*.
 - e. At the curse, God promises messiah, who will put it all back together
 - f. At the death of Lazarus, Jesus sees all that he has come to change
 - g. So that they will believe he shows that HE IS THE ONE with power to overcome death. He

weeps to see his creation damaged and the pain and suffering it causes

- d. But why do we still experience this today?
 - i. Jesus is the resurrection, he is messiah. So why do we still have miscarriages/suffering/death?
 - 1. Lazarus died again. Another line of mourners outside his tomb.
 - 2. Only Jesus has died and risen again, never to taste of death again. He is the “first fruits” from the dead.
 - 3. When Jesus resurrected Lazarus, he was saying in the strongest possible way I AM THE RESURRECTION
 - a. I AM the messiah spoken of in scriptures
 - b. The one who will usher in (Rev. 21:3-7)
 - i. The dwelling of God with man
 - ii. Who will wipe every tear from our eyes for past hurts
 - iii. Who will make the world be a place with no more death, mourning, crying, pain
 - iv. To the one who is thirsty, they may drink from the water of life without cost
 - ii. I have seen resurrection moments, also...
 - 1. My daughters, born healthy despite medical complications
 - 2. “Tracy” in Asia, saved from generations of spiritual slavery
 - 3. HE IS MESSIAH, the one who will fix every broken thing in our world.
 - 4. There is still pain and suffering, but I follow him BECAUSE HE IS THE RESURRECTION. This is a key truth of the gospel.

V. Our last response

- a. Mary wipes Jesus’ feet with the burial perfume (John 12:1-8)
 - i. A “year’s wages” worth of perfume.
 - ii. But if he is really the resurrection, it had a better use cleaning his feet than being saved for death
 - iii. If he is the resurrection, then our lives must change
 - 1. I cannot make decisions based on earthly perspective
 - a. What if I were a martyr?
 - b. Or he asked me to leave my family
 - c. Or comfort
 - d. Or my career
 - e. Or to sacrifice my money
 - f. My culture
 - g. My preferences
 - h. My rights

- i. These can all become jars of perfume that I am saving on a shelf instead of using in his service
- VI. A day is coming when every knee will bow on heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. King of Kings. Lord of Lords. The King of Thailand will lay his crown at Jesus' feet. Presidents and prime ministers will lay before him. Beggars and senators, demons and angels, missionaries and cult leaders will bow before him and acknowledge him as God. And on that glorious day, we will be weeping. He will wipe the tears from our eyes, although they will be tears of gratitude, sobs of joy. Oh, thank God that all this suffering will be done, and that justice and peace will reign on the earth again. Come, Lord Jesus! Let us be in your presence where there is no more death, no more mourning, no more pain.