

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the Amazing Jesus Series

Lesson 45

Lesson Title: Experience His Power Over Death

Take Home Point: Jesus has power over death.

Warm-Up:

Probably few things demonstrate our culture's fear of death more than attempts to cryogenically preserve a body for later "resurrection." The idea of deep freezing at death in the hope of a future technology that restores life poses significant questions in every area of life – spiritual, physical, moral, mental. Even given the unlikelihood of success, how would "life" be defined in this case? A beating heart? Brain activity? Permanent life support? The underlying assumption is that humans will develop the power to avoid death. Advances in medical technology to overcome diseases and extend life span are given as proof of possibility. But isn't it sad that for so many people, this life is all they have?

Read: John 11:1-44

Observation (What happened?):

What did Martha and Mary both say when Jesus arrived in Bethany?

What was the response of Jesus to his sorrow, and others', caused by the death of Lazarus?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How did Jesus know Lazarus was dead? What do you think the disciples thought when Jesus told them?

What might have happened if Jesus hadn't specifically called for Lazarus in the graveyard?

Insight:

Two very interesting points stand out in this account. The first is the declaration Martha makes in John 11:27: *"I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."* (NIV) This is the same Martha who is later rebuked by Jesus for being more concerned about dinner than learning from the Master. Perhaps she was not so different from her sister in what she believed; only that she lost focus when trying to be a good hostess. The other interesting point is that this is only the second time these words are used in the gospels, the first being when Peter states his belief in Matthew 16:16. In both cases, Jesus asks them what they believe, forcing them to make a declaration or not. At some point in the life of every person who hears the truth and takes it to heart, the same question is asked by Jesus: "Do you believe in me or not? Get off the fence! It's time to decide! You are either with me or against me."

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know you are forever alive? Take a moment to thank Jesus for his love and power and sacrifice on your behalf.

Pray for your small group to understand that death isn't the end, as our culture tends to believe and teach.

Meet the Amazing Jesus..., Lesson 45