



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Signs on Believers' Highway, Lesson 43

Lesson Title: Jesus Raises Lazarus

Take Home Point: Jesus brings people back to life.

Warm-Up:

A friend of mine was a member of the U.S. diplomatic staff in Eastern European during a time when Cold War tensions were very high. One afternoon, he and another staff member found themselves in a location that was off limits. As they turned their car around to leave, a guard at the site opened fire, hitting not only the car, but also my friend. Even though they escaped, he was so seriously wounded that he was not expected to live. But he recovered, and now celebrates two birthdays every year – one for his original birth, and one for when his life was given back to him by God. He values every day as a special gift because when it seemed his life was lost, it was restored to him.

Read: John 11:1-54

Observation (What happened?):

How did Martha express her faith in Jesus when he arrived?

What kind of life was Jesus speaking about in John 11:25?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus was troubled in his spirit and cried?

How do you think Mary and Martha felt when their brother was restored to life?

Insight:

Have you ever thought how many other people were also buried in the same cemetery where Lazarus was restored to life? Why was he resurrected and not the others? Did he deserve it in some way? Was it the faith of his sisters? Was it because they were good friends with the Lord of life? John doesn't bother to explain exactly why it happened, probably because Jesus didn't bother to explain it either. What Jesus did say in 11:15 is, *"I'm glad that I wasn't there so that you can grow in faith."* We live in a broken world; the results of sin are everywhere in us and around us. God acts all the time, in ways we can see and in ways we can't, but always for the same reason – so that people can believe and grow in faith. God doesn't promise to make everything perfect in our life when we trust him. He does promise never to leave us or forsake us, and to always do what he knows is best for us and what will keep us depending on him.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

In what ways has Jesus brought you back to life? How do you live life differently now that you know Jesus?

What hurt or sorrow can you take to Jesus for healing or comfort? Take some time now to talk with him about it.

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