

Why Jesus

Part 6: Because Jesus has ultimate authority, even over death itself. He is the Resurrection and the life

Key Scriptures: John 11:17-22, NB v25

Summary

John 11 is one of the most emotionally and theologically rich chapters in the Gospel. Jesus arrives after Lazarus has died. He meets real grief, real disappointment and real confusion. Martha's words carry both faith and pain: *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."* This honesty is important. Faith in Jesus does not eliminate lament.

Jesus' answer is staggering: *"I am the resurrection and the life."* He does not simply offer teaching about life after death. He locates resurrection in himself. Hope is not ultimately an idea, a doctrine or a comforting sentiment. Hope has a face and a name: Jesus Christ. This speaks powerfully in a world marked by anxiety, loss and the fear of meaninglessness. Death remains the great human enemy. All achievements end at its door. But Jesus confronts death not with denial, but with authority. The raising of Lazarus is a sign that anticipates the greater victory still to come in Jesus' own resurrection.

This passage also reveals the compassion of Christ. He weeps. The One who will raise Lazarus is not emotionally detached from human suffering. He is strong enough to defeat death and tender enough to stand with the grieving.

Response invitation:

Where do you need Jesus to speak life into what feels dead, buried or beyond hope?

Discussion questions

1. Why is it important that Jesus weeps in this story?
2. What is the difference between believing in resurrection as an idea and believing in Jesus as resurrection and life?
3. How does this passage speak to fear, grief and hopelessness?
4. Why does Jesus ask Martha, "Do you believe this?"