

*Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: The Resurrection and the Life*  
*Delivered by: Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor; Date: May 20, 2018*

***Bible text explored: John 11:1–44***

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

<sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” <sup>11</sup>After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” <sup>13</sup>Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, <sup>15</sup>and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup>So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup>Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup>She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the

dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.”<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”<sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” [ESV]

***Review and application:***

*Pastor Moody called this Scripture “the good news of the Bible in microcosm.”*

1. We are aware that physical death is inevitable, and school shootings and airline crashes are in the news. Still, we don’t talk much about death. Does that mean we are in practical denial?
2. Read from this sonnet by John Donne, who lived from 1572 to 1631. What perspective of his does our age need to recapture?

*Death, be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;  
For those whom thou think’st thou dost overthrow  
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me. . . .  
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,  
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.*

3. By the time Mary and Martha’s message (vv. 1-6) reached Jesus in Galilee, was Lazarus already dead? (See v. 17.)  
What explanation did Jesus give for his decision to delay departing for Judea by two days?
4. What (vv. 7-16) concerned his disciples when Jesus—based on his “eternal time frame”—announced that it was time to return to Judea?  
What do you think Jesus’ response was telling his disciples about the source of their security?  
What did Thomas’ brave response say about the disciples’ comprehension of his answer?
5. Did Martha believe (vv. 18-27) that Jesus . . .  
    . . . is the Messiah?  
    . . . could bring Lazarus back from the grave?  
But did she fully grasp how powerfully Jesus himself *is* the resurrection? (See vv. 39-40.)
6. What (vv. 28-36) did Martha’s calling Jesus “Teacher” say about how he related to these female friends (whom most rabbis would refuse to teach)?  
Did Jesus’ deity prevent him from passionately experiencing the futility felt by the wailing mourners?  
How should we identify with those facing suffering and death?
7. How (vv. 37-43) did allowing Lazarus to suffer and die and then be raised reveal a greater glory than healing him earlier would have accomplished?  
Can I trust God to work in my life through developments that appear adverse?