**John 11:1-57 “Jesus: The Resurrection and The Life”**

***Introduction:*** The fear of death is a common human experience, affecting how we live and think. In John 11:1-57, we encounter Jesus as He addresses this fear by demonstrating His power over death. Through the story of Lazarus, we see that Jesus is not only aware of our struggles with death but provides hope through His identity as the resurrection and the life. This passage offers comfort and assurance that death is not the end for those who believe in Jesus.

**I. Death Does Not Have the Last Word (vv.1-16)**

***Observation:*** Jesus receives word that Lazarus is ill but delays going to Bethany. When He discusses returning, His disciples express concern for His safety.

 ***Interpretation:*** Jesus' delay was intentional, to demonstrate that death is not the ultimate outcome but rather an opportunity for God's glory to be revealed.

 ***Application:*** Trust in God's timing. Even in situations that seem hopeless, remember that God is at work for His glory and our good.

**Study Questions:**

**1.** Why did Jesus delay His visit to Lazarus, and what was the purpose of His timing?

**2.** In what ways does the story of Lazarus demonstrate that God's timing and plans may differ from our expectations? How can we trust God's timing in our own lives?

**II. Death is Not the End but the Beginning (vv.17-27)**

***Observation:*** Jesus arrives to find Lazarus dead for four days. Martha expresses her disappointment yet acknowledges Jesus' close relationship with God.

***Interpretation:*** Jesus declares Himself as the resurrection and the life, offering eternal life to those who believe in Him.

***Application:*** Embrace the hope that for believers, physical death is a transition to eternal life.

**Study Questions:**

**1.** How did Martha demonstrate her faith in Jesus despite her grief, and how does Jesus' response shift her perspective?

**2.** How does Jesus' statement 'I am the resurrection and the life' challenge or affirm your understanding of His identity and power? What implications does this have for your faith?

**III. Death Has a Comforter Who Enters Our Suffering (vv.28-44)**

***Observation:*** Mary meets Jesus, expressing sorrow. Jesus, deeply moved, weeps with those mourning Lazarus.

 ***Interpretation:*** Jesus' compassion shows He is present with us in our suffering and has the power to bring life from death.

 ***Application:*** Find comfort in Jesus' presence and power in times of grief, knowing He understands our pain.

**Study Questions:**

**1.** What does Jesus' reaction to Mary and the crowd reveal about His nature and His role as a comforter?

**2.** How can we, as believers, effectively communicate the hope of resurrection to a world that often fears death or tries to ignore its reality?

**IV. Death in the Ultimate Sense Has Been Defeated (vv.45-57)**

***Observation:*** Many believe in Jesus after witnessing Lazarus' resurrection, yet some plot against Him.

 ***Interpretation:*** Jesus' resurrection of Lazarus is a foretaste of His own death and resurrection, defeating death for all who believe.

 ***Application:*** Live confidently in Jesus' victory over death, assured of eternal life through Him.

**Study Questions:**

**1.** How does the reaction of the religious leaders contrast with those who believed, and what does this say about the power of Jesus' miracles?

**2.** Considering Caiaphas' unintentional prophecy, how do you see God working through unexpected or even hostile sources in the world today?

**Application for the Week:**

**1.** Memorize John 11:25-26 this week as a reminder of Christ's power over death.

**2.** Pray to God expressing any fears or anxieties you have about death, and ask for His peace and comfort.

**3.** Reach out to someone you know who is grieving and offer support, keeping in mind Jesus' example of entering into others' suffering.

**4.** Reflect on how the reality of eternal life in Christ should impact your daily decisions and priorities. Make one concrete change this week based on this reflection.

**5.** Share the hope of resurrection with someone who doesn't know Christ, using the truths you've learned from this passage.