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# The Resurrection of Love (Paying The Cost to Rise Again)

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## First Love

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: First Love: The Resurrection of Love (Paying The Cost to Rise Again)***

***Lesson Text***

John 11:1–4 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> Now a certain *man* was sick, *named* Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> (It was *that* Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) <sup>3</sup> Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. <sup>4</sup> When Jesus heard *that*, he said, **This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.**

John 11:14 (KJV)<sup>14</sup> Then said Jesus unto them plainly, **Lazarus is dead.**

John 11:20–21 (KJV)<sup>20</sup> Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat *still* in the house. <sup>21</sup> Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

John 11:25 (KJV)<sup>25</sup> Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

***Introduction***

The series we've been preaching for the past few weeks, "First Love", comes from a book I wrote, "First Love, True Love, Best Love;" and is based on Revelation 2:4 (KJV) <sup>4</sup> **Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

The answer to the loss of love is in the next verse: Revelation 2:5 (KJV)<sup>5</sup> **Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.**

- The Remembrance of Love
- The Repentance of Love
- The Removal of Love

Today on Easter Sunday, I want to talk about what happens when love dies.

Many of us have experienced the death of love – the death of a marriage or intimate relationships, death of a close friendship or extended family member, the death of a relationship with our job or career, and the death of our fellowship with church or ministry.

Now the question is why? Lack of knowledge, conflict, ungodly soul ties, failure of love languages, lack of intimacy. And although these things are vital in relationships, sometimes they still die.

John 11<sup>4</sup> When Jesus heard *that*, he said, **This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.**

When we have the love of God, even death is not the end!

John 11: <sup>25</sup> Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

But in order to rise again, we must be willing to pay the cost.

***Series and Sermon: First Love: The Resurrection of Love (Paying The Cost to Rise Again)***

(Love That Died For Us, Love That Rose For Us, Love That Lives In Us)

***I. Love That Died For Us (Payment)***

John 11: <sup>14</sup> Then said Jesus unto them plainly, **Lazarus is dead.**

The Resurrection of Love is first being willing to die for the failures of others.

John 3: <sup>16</sup> **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

But the reason why we experience a loss of love is because those we love are imperfect, and those that love us eventually realize that we are just as imperfect.

We offend each other; we disappoint, hurt, betray, and fail each other. And these failures carry with them a cost. And as a result, most of our relationships fail because we are either unwilling or unable to pay the cost.

- Luke 17: <sup>1</sup> ... **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him,**
- Psalm 69: <sup>4</sup> They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: ....
- Psalm 34: <sup>19</sup> Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: ...
- Luke 22: <sup>48</sup> ... **Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?**

The offenses are too painful, the hatred is too evil, the afflictions are too numerous, the betrayal is too devastating – it all becomes too costly and so, our relationships just die.

We need people to pay by getting it right, pay by getting it together, pay by getting it fixed; but they can't pay, and neither can we pay!

“I just can't take it no more,” “I have nothing left to give,” “This is just not worth it!”

***When we couldn't pay the cost, Love died for us!***

Romans 5: <sup>8</sup> But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus has already paid for our failures in full!

Jesus paid the cost with the cross. He didn't wait for us to get right, he paid in advance when we were yet sinners, yet broken, yet offending, yet betraying.

John 15: <sup>13</sup> **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

Philippians 2: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

At the cross his love died for our offenses, our betrayal, our hurt, and our failures.

Luke 9: <sup>23</sup> And he said to *them* all, **If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

## ***II. Love That Rose For Us (Power)***

John 11: <sup>25</sup> Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

The Resurrection of Love is next being able to rise from the death of others.

We all come into life believing that we will live happily ever after – all our dreams and visions will come to pass, we will find the love of our lives, we will have purpose and meaning and will live out our divine destiny.

And then people and life kill it. John 10:10 (KJV)<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:** I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

We die because the thief steals our joy, we die because the thief kills our dreams, and we die because the thief destroys our destiny. And when our love dies, we lose our power.

We feel like Martha felt when her brother Lazarus died: John 11: <sup>21</sup> Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

### **When we don't have the power, Love rose for us!**

John 11: <sup>25</sup> Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

Many times, we feel like all hope is lost when something dies, but death can't hold the Love of God down!

1 Corinthians 15: <sup>55</sup> O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? <sup>56</sup> The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 10: <sup>19</sup> **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

Jesus rose so that our Joy would have power: Psalm 30:5 (KJV)<sup>5</sup> For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

Jesus rose so that our Dreams and Visions would have power: Habakkuk 2:3 (KJV)<sup>3</sup> For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Jesus rose so that our Destiny would have power: Jeremiah 29: <sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

### ***III. Love That Lives Through Us (Victory)***

John 11: <sup>25</sup> Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

- When we couldn't pay the cost, Love died for us!
- When we didn't have the power, Love rose for us!
- When we could only just survive, Love lives through us!

The Resurrection of Love gives us the power to live and not just survive.

When you've been through the struggle all you have is just enough energy to survive – You survived the hurt, you survived the pain, you survived the betrayal. And although you survived, you're left feeling numb, feeling defeated, you feel like a failure.

John 10: <sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

When Jesus got up, when love got up, he didn't get up just to survive, he got up to live!

“We are not just alive, but we are here to live – To live an abundant life.”

To live a blessed life: Proverbs 10: <sup>22</sup> The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

To live a prosperous life: Psalm 1: <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

To live a victorious life: 1 Corinthians 15: <sup>57</sup> But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

To live an eternal life: John 3: <sup>16</sup> **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

# The Resurrection of Love (Paying The Cost to Rise Again)

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## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Resurrection of Love (Paying The Cost to Rise Again))

### Lesson Text

- John 11:1–25

### Sermon Outline

- I. *Love That Died For Us (Payment)***
- II. *Love That Rose For Us (Power)***
- III. *Love That Lives Through Us (Victory)***

### Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

#### **I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. What is one Easter memory from your childhood that still makes you smile... What made it so special to you?
2. If you had to choose one Easter candy or tradition to keep forever and give up the rest, what would it be and why?

#### **II. Into The Bible**

1. Read Romans 5:8. Why is it significant that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners rather than requiring us to clean ourselves up first?
2. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is the connection between Jesus’s statement that all power in heaven and earth had been given to him and the mission he then gave to the church?

#### **III. Life Application**

1. What practical steps can you take to live as a victor rather than a victim (i.e., in your thought life, relationships, or your habits)?
2. Because Jesus’ resurrection demonstrates that all sins are forgiven, who do you need to extend the resurrection power of forgiveness to, rather than holding on to guilt or anger?