



SERMON CHEAT SHEET

THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE | John 11:1-44

EMBRACING THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH CHRIST

The Delayed Response of Love

Jesus' response to the news of Lazarus's illness is perplexing; He delays His arrival despite loving Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha (John 11:5-6). This moment reminds us that God's timing often doesn't align with our expectations. Just like Martha expressed her grief and frustration when she said, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died' (John 11:21), we might feel similarly in our own suffering. Yet, in moments of waiting, God's love is present, illustrating that delays can be part of His greater plan to reveal His glory. We should also reflect on how we respond to God in times of worry and uncertainty.

Grief in the Midst of Faith

Both Mary and Martha exhibit deep sorrow over the death of Lazarus (John 11:32, 33). Their expressions of grief demonstrate that it's okay to mourn; Jesus Himself weeps upon seeing their pain (John 11:35). This shows us that Jesus does not dismiss our sorrow, but rather enters into it. It encourages us to allow ourselves the space to grieve and to see that our faith in Christ does not eliminate our pain, but provides comfort through it. Their story affirms that our cries and doubts are heard and validated by Jesus, who understands the depth of our hurt.

The Power of Belief and Action

Jesus' interaction with Martha culminates in His question, 'Do you believe this?' (John 11:26). It challenges us to examine our own faith—do we truly believe that Jesus is the Lord of life and death? This belief should compel us to action, lifting our voices in prayer, sharing the hope of the Gospel, and living out our faith boldly. Our actions should reflect our belief in Christ's power over death, leading us to share that good news with those who are still in the tomb of despair, encouraging them to turn to Him.

Hope in the Face of Death

Jesus demonstrates that death is not the end; rather, it is a transition for believers (John 11:43-44). When Lazarus emerges from the tomb, wrapped in grave clothes, it signifies that even death can be reversed through Jesus. This event assures us that because of Jesus' resurrection, we too will experience eternal life. Therefore, we can face our mortality and the loss of loved ones with hope instead of despair, knowing we have the promise of being reunited with them in Christ. Living in this hope allows us to engage life fully while looking ahead to our eternal future.

LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Reflect on areas in your life where you doubt God's love or presence; acknowledge those feelings in prayer.
- Share the message of Jesus' power over death with someone who feels hopeless or fearful about death.
- Practice gratitude for the relationships and life experiences God has blessed you with today.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray for those you know who are grieving; ask God to bring them peace and comfort.
- Seek God's help in deepening your faith, believing He is the resurrection and the life.
- Request courage to share the hope of Jesus with others during difficult times.