



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 27

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 11:1-27

Summary:

This week's passage introduces one of the most famous stories from Jesus' earthly ministry – namely, the resurrection of his friend Lazarus. In John 11:1-27, we see Jesus' ability to redeem even the most terrible of losses, as he shows how even in the worst of times, he is still working to glorify God and strengthen his people. And through Jesus' conversation with Martha, this passage shows how true faith serves as an anchor through trouble and loss.

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. What does it say about Mary and Martha that they sent for Jesus when their brother was ill? **Application:** Where do you look first when trouble comes? Is Jesus your first "call," or do you wait until all other "options" are exhausted?
3. Why do you think that the text emphasizes Jesus' love for Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (v. 3, 5)?
4. Why did Jesus wait two days before setting out to Bethany?

5. What concerned the disciples about Jesus' desire to return to Judea? What did it mean for them to follow him back there? **Application:** What does it mean for you to follow Jesus into difficult or dangerous situations?

6. What does Jesus mean in vv. 9-10? How would you summarize his explanation to the disciples for his decision to go back to Judea?

7. Why was Jesus "glad" he wasn't there when Lazarus died (v. 15)? What's at the forefront of Jesus' thinking when it comes to his disciples?

8. How do you explain Mary and Martha's different responses to the news of Jesus' arrival (vv. 20-22)? How would you characterize the tone of Martha's words to Jesus? **Application:** How do you approach the Lord during times of great suffering in your life?

9. Martha makes it clear that she believes in the resurrection of the dead (v. 24). How does Jesus build on and strengthen that faith in light of his person and work (vv. 25-26)? What's the significance of Martha's final confession (v. 27) in light of Jesus' words?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?