



## WAKING UP TO LIFE!

April 4, 2021  
John 11:1 – 44  
Daniel Hahn

### MESSAGE NOTES

1. God's apparent silence can be so bewildering when we face difficulties.

*Just because God is silent, doesn't mean that He is still.*

2. God's logic is based on a much wider view of our circumstances.

3. God's actions are always moving people toward a decision.

*A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He'd be either a lunatic — on a level with a man who says he's a poached egg — or else he'd be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. ... But don't let us come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He hasn't left that open to us. He didn't intend to. — C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*

4. God's compassion for us is real, even when we have no idea how He's working things out.

*I meet many who are deeply disappointed in how their lives have turned out. Often, due to circumstances or wrongful decisions and actions by others, or what they had hoped to accomplish in life never panned out. Much of the distress of these good people comes from a failure to realize that their life lies before them. The life that lies before us in the kingdom of God. — Dallas Willard, The Divine Conspiracy*

*Today we suffer. Today we don't understand. But someday, that same Savior who weeps with us will wipe every tear from our eyes. He'll unbind our graveclothes of earthly flesh, and we'll be set free. Someday all the scattered, broken pieces will fall into place, and we will suddenly understand the hand of God has been upon us all the time. All the tragedy — all the darkness — will instantly be swallowed up by triumph.*

*— Joanna Weaver, Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*

5. God's ultimate plan is to usher us into eternal life with Himself.

*Jesus knew we would struggle with the concept of resurrection. He knew we would have doubts when His tomb turned up empty. He knew there would be conspiracy theories and chat rooms jammed with people wanting to debate the likelihood of the dead coming back to life. So the Author of our faith prefaced His Son's death with an act that would foreshadow the resurrection. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He put to death Satan's lie that the end is the end. — Joanna Weaver, Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*

*Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. — John 5:24 – 25*

*But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. — John 20:31*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Was there anything in particular that stuck with you from the weekend's teaching?
- Can you share some of the feelings you've had about death — maybe feelings you had when someone else died or fears you have about death itself?
- In what ways do the responses of Mary and Martha to Lazarus' death reflect our own feelings when we suffer any kind of great loss?
- In light of the close relationship Jesus had with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha, why would He intentionally wait — and allow them to endure so much? How might that speak to our own bewilderment when God doesn't seem to be rescuing us from something difficult?
- What was the greater significance surrounding Christ's act of raising Lazarus from the dead?
- Physical death is a reality. According to Jesus, it doesn't have to be a fearful reality. Why?
- In what ways do you trust God even when things are confusing or difficult, and in what ways is this a real struggle for you?
- Do you still battle lingering doubts about your eternal life with God? What might help you to overcome those and trust that what Jesus said is true?
- How would complete confidence in Christ's promise of eternal life affect your life now?