

Christ at the Crossroad of Death

(John 11:1-45)

Introduction: Death is a sobering subject. But not everyone is willing to face it. Many would rather skip class than learn about this subject. And there are plenty who do. Let's briefly look at some of the ways people attempt to avoid this hardest lesson in life's curriculum.

I. Familiar Reactions to the Subject of Death

- A) Many of us cope with the harshness of death by _____ about it.
- B) Others attempt to distance themselves from death by simply not _____ about it.
- C) Still others rely on graceful hymns, fragrant flowers, and the embalmer's are to make death "beautiful."
- D) Last, the universal reaction to death is _____.

II. Death at Bethany: A Story of Grief and Faith

- A) Sickness Turns to _____ (John 11:1-2).
 1. In Desperation, the sisters sent a message to Jesus (v. 3).
 2. They didn't beg or demand that He come; they didn't need to (v. 5).
 3. But Christ didn't go (v. 6).
 4. As Jesus delayed Lazarus died (vs. 7, 11-14)
- B) Delay Leads to _____.
 1. News of Lazarus' death spread and many friends came (vs. 17-19).
 2. Martha goes out to meet Jesus; not to embrace Him, but to blame (vs. 20-21).
 3. Mary felt the same way (v. 32).
 4. In spite of the bitter reception Jesus understood their pain for He had loved Lazarus too (vs. 33-37).
- C) Prayer Results in a _____ (vs. 38-43).
- D) Grief Changes to _____ (vs. 44-45).

III. And You? What About You?

- A) Jesus raised Lazarus because He _____ He would (v. 23).
- B) And, He _____ to raise all those who believe in Him (v. 25).
- C) There is a _____ (1 Cor. 15:12-19, 42-44).
- D) Have you passed from death into life through faith in Christ? (Rom. 6:23)

Conclusion: Death spares no one. But it isn't the end. It is simply the transition that takes us from this temporary life to eternal life, believer and nonbeliever alike. The question is, "Where will you spend it?"

My Notes: