

Sunday 29th March 2020 – Sermon notes

Raising us from the depths of despair

Scriptures: John 11:1-44, Psalm 130, Ezekiel 37:1-14

Remember the significance of Lent.

“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

- “There are no hopeless situations; there are only people who have grown hopeless about them. “ -Clare Boothe Luce.

John 11:3 - They sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is very sick."

- “The fact that they sent word to Jesus reveals their **silent hope** for Christ to do something.” – Derek Carlsen

There is a theme of WAITING (and God’s Timing) in this chapter. What lessons are there in this for us? How good are you at waiting?

John 11:21 - Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Have you ever felt disappointed in God? What happened in your life that made you feel ‘let down’ by God?

11:25 – 26 – “Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. **Do you believe this?**"

11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, **he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.**

Jesus is full of Compassion – John 11:35 - Jesus Wept

11:39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

Peter Woods - "Jesus arrives on the fourth day. The day that is beyond all hope. All through Scripture the third day is the day that God acts. Jesus arrives on the hopeless day, the fourth."

☞ Ezekiel 37:11 – “Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone...”

Hebrews 6:19 - We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

What must die in my life at this time?

☞ Brian Stoffregen – “Dead Lazarus could do nothing for himself (or for God). He could only passively receive the new life God gave him.”

“It is well with my soul.” – Horatio Spafford

☐ “Our human compassion binds us the one to the other – not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.” – Nelson Mandela

Prayer: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 15:13