

WEEK 1 HANDOUT – The Son’s Authority Over Death

BAND of BROTHERS SPRING/2021

Key Verse: *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.”* – John 11:25 ESV

- **Part 2 of the Gospel of John**

- John 1-10
 - Covered the first 36 months of Jesus’ life
- John 11-21
 - Deals with the last 3 months of Jesus’ life
 - With special emphasis on the last 7 days (see attachment)

- **Love. Divine.**

- Jesus was the greatest expression of God’s love

*But **God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*** – Romans 5:8 NLT

*This is real love—not that we loved God, but that **he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*** – 1 John 4:10 NLT

- Jesus wasn’t just a man
- He was the incarnate Son of God
- God in “the flesh”

No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us. – John 1:18 NLT

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16 ESV

- John has spent 10 chapters establishing the unique identity of Jesus as the Messiah
- In the last 11 chapters, he will reveal how the Messiah is to accomplish His mission

- **His Mission: Jesus. Christ.**

JESUS	CHRIST
Fully human	Fully divine
Rabbi	Redeemer
Teacher	Healer
Servant	Savior
Master	Messiah
Friend	King
Provider	Propitiation

- In these last 11 chapters, John is reveal the means by which Jesus will accomplish His God-given mission

- **The Raising or Lazarus – John 11:1-44**

- Jesus in entering the final phase of His mission
 - He is currently in the wilderness on the other side of the Jordan
 - He has returned to where He had been baptized by John

He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. – John 10:40 ESV

- But He receives urgent news concerning His friend, Lazarus

A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha.... So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, “Lord, your dear friend is very sick.” – John 11:1, 3 ESV

- The announcement
 - Jesus was told that Lazarus’ illness was serious
 - But He seemed to treat it lightly

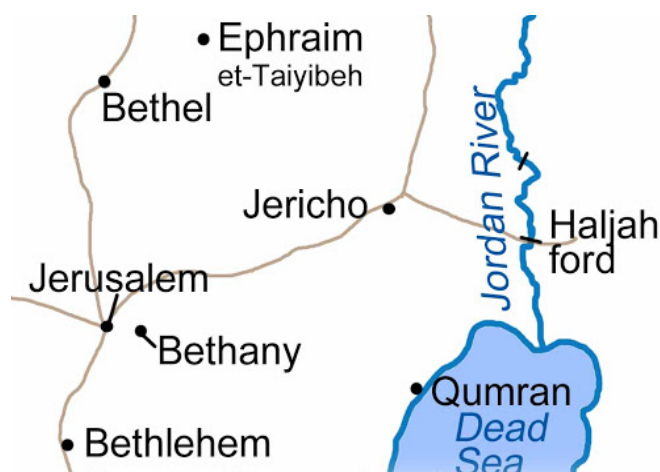
But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” – John 11:4 ESV

- Jesus infers that death will not be the final outcome of this disease
- Instead, it will be to bring glory to God
- Similar to an earlier encounter with the man born blind

“Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” – John 9:2 NLT

*“It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. **“This happened so the power of God could be seen in him.”** – John 9:3 NLT*

- The delay
 - Jesus delayed His departure for two whole days
 - He showed no signs of urgency
 - But when two days had passed, they made to trip to Bethany



- The resistance
 - His disciples try to talk Him out of it
 - Judea was not a safe place for Jesus
 - Jesus had almost been stoned to death by the Jewish religious leaders

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” – John 10:27-30 ESV

The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. – John 10:31 ESV

Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands. – John 10:39 ESV

- The Lecture

“Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” – John 11:9-10 ESV

- Jesus reminds His worried disciples that He is the light
- His presence illuminates the darkness surrounding them
- As long as they walk with Him, they will be safe

"We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." – John 9:4-5 ESV

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." – John 8:12 ESV

"Jesus assured them that as long as He was acting in accordance with His Father's will (walking in the light of the day), He would be perfectly safe. And as long as they remained in step with Him, they would not stumble." – Ken Miller, Devotional™ on the Gospel of John

- The disclosure and departure
 - Jesus breaks the news to His disciples that Lazarus has died
 - But He assures them that this is actually good news

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." – John 11:14-15 ESV

- This entire episode is about **death** and **life**
- Jesus has repeatedly offered Himself as the key to **eternal life**
- Now, Jesus would demonstrate His power over **death**

- The arrival
 - Jesus arrives **too late**
 - Lazarus has been dead and buried for **four days**
 - His sisters have **given up hope**

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

*When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, **if only** you had been here, my brother would not have died." – John 11:32 NLT*

- The announcement

"Your brother will rise again." – John 11:23 ESV

 - Jesus assures Martha that all will be well
 - Her brother will be restored to life
 - She thinks He is talking about the future resurrection of the dead

Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." – John 11:23 ESV

- But Jesus has a different kind of resurrection in mind

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" – John 11:25-26 ESV

- Jesus challenged her belief in Him
 - She believed Him to be the long-awaited Messiah
 - She believed Him to be their future King
 - She believed Him to a miracle worker & healer
 - She believed Him to be the Son of God
 - But she did **not** believe He could give life to the dead

*"...whoever **believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16 ESV*

*"The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever **believes** in the Son has eternal life..." – John 3:35-36 ESV*

- The miracle

- Jesus did not require Martha or Mary to believe in His ability to raise the dead
- He performed the miracle so that they might believe
- They harbored no aspirations that their brother could live again

"Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." – John 11:39 ESV

- Her brother was dead and gone
- The time for saving his life had long passed
- But Jesus was far from finished
- Jesus had the stone moved and called for Lazarus to come out of the grave
 - Lazarus hobbled out of the grave bound up by the grave cloths
 - And Jesus commanded them, "Unbind him, and let him go" (John 11:44 ESV).
 - This was a picture of the Messianic prophecy spoken by Isaiah

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound... – Isaiah 61:1 ESV

- Lazarus was a visible symbol of the freedom Jesus had come to bring

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” – John 8:36 ESV

- Jesus set Lazarus free from the bonds of death
- But Lazarus was still bound by grave cloths
- He was alive but appeared dead
- He needed to put off the trappings of death

...put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
– Ephesians 4:22-24 ESV

- **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

- What are some of the “grave cloths” we still wear that keep us from living free indeed?
- How does Lazarus’ “new life” compare to the one we enjoy in Christ? In what ways are they similar and different?
- Look back at verse 40. Discuss how this miracle revealed the glory of God?

THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

A Timeline from the Gospel of John

FINAL WEEK

TRUMPHAL ENTRY
SUNDAY

TEMPLE CLEANSING
MONDAY

OLIVET DISCOURSE
TUESDAY

DAY OF REST IN BETHANY
WEDNESDAY

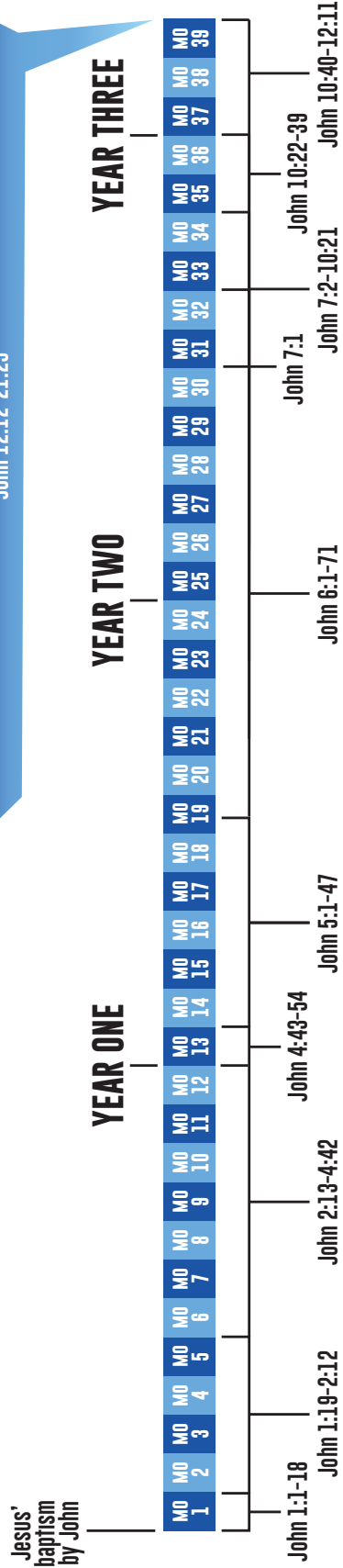
PASSOVER, ARREST, & TRIALS
THURSDAY

CRUCIFIXION & BURIAL
FRIDAY

RESURRECTION & APPEARANCES
SATURDAY

SUNDAY

John 12:12-21:25



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