

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin & death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ & serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- John 9:1-41

...<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha & Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went & met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection & the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives & believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ... <sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, & a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>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." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. & Jesus looked upward & said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands & feet bound with strips of cloth, & his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, & let him go." <sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary & had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Think about Jesus' words in vv25-26; what does it say about our resurrection? Is resurrection a natural, normal part of our biology? See Acts 26:22-23; Romans 6:3-11, 8:19-21; 1 Corinthians 15:12-26, 35-57; 2 Corinthians 1:9, 4:14; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Timothy 2:17b-18; Hebrews 6:2; Revelation 1:5
2. Review the 7 "I am" statements in John's Gospel (6:35, 8:12, 10:9, 10:11 & 14, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1 & 5). How do they connect to John's purpose for recording his Gospel? See John 8:26-30, 20:24-31, 21:24-25

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. When has the Lord called new life into of a situation of yours that was "back then" & "dead & buried"? Share at least 3 examples.
4. What do you think makes so many Christians leave out the promised, factual resurrection of the body at their funerals? How is it a "celebration of life" without the "resurrection & the life (v25)"? See 1 Corinthians 15:12-14; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Which of your neighbors is facing a dry bones/in the tomb situation right now (and what is it)? As a baptized believer who has the Holy Spirit, how can God use you to breathe new life for them? Pray about it, follow Jesus' patient example of listening first, & don't "fix" them/it or be a know-it-all.
6. How about a *Corona Virus Challenge*? Stay in contact with one other person in your congregation each day. Make a phone call, send a text or email, use Facetime (or similar app) & see how one another are doing. Don't leave each other behind. Help each other meet one another's needs (low on groceries or medicine or toiletries?). Make it your goal to reach out to one other person in the congregation (not in your home/family) each day during these restrictions.

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

Series: The Flipside

03.29.20

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Now- Not Then, Not Later

*Jesus' presence is for us in the present*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, & the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” & he worshiped him. (vv37-38)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

I am the resurrection & the life;  
whoever believes in me will never die. (*John 11:25, 26*)

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