

Dead, Defeated or Dangerous

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 11.

B. Jesus' work on the cross not only frees us from the penalty of sin—It helps us with the power of sin.

C. Lazarus's problem was that he was dead.

D. It is possible to be dead when one is alive. This means that one is absolutely inactive with regard to spiritual activities.

II. All that spiritually dead people need is Jesus.

A. Christ is all that we need.

B. Lazarus is a picture of defeat--Jesus is adequate to take away the defeat of sin in the Christian's life.

III. The one who abides in Jesus ought to walk as he walked. (1 John 2:6)

A. Jesus walked in newness of life. (Luke 24:13, Romans 6:4)

B. Jesus walked in victory. (Mark 6:48-49)

C. Jesus walked according to God's program. (Luke 13:33)

D. Jesus walked for the needs of others. (John 4:4; 14; 9:4; Philippians 2:12-13; John 20:3)

IV. "Grave clothes"

A. Relics of the old life. (Romans 6:5-6)

B. Relics of old principles. (Galatians 3:3)

C. Relics of old things. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

V. Jesus—the truth—sets us free. (John 8:31, 36; 2 Corinthians 3:17, Galatians 5:1)

VI. We are called to be dangerous not dead nor defeated.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to walk according to God's program?

2. How can you do a better job of walking for the needs of others?

3. Which set of "old clothes" do you tend to struggle with the most? How can we respond better in light of the message?
