

Death's Conqueror

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 11:17-44.

B. In Jesus is the answer to conquer death because He was and is the master over death.

II. Martha's faith is challenged.

A. Martha believed in the resurrection of the dead, but not that Lazarus would immediately rise.

B. Martha is looking for comfort from Jesus.

C. Martha shifts the focus from God's program to His Person.

D. Jesus response was to tell Martha not to sell short the Son of God—He can operate the same way He will in the future today.

E. Two groups.

1. The one dying will live if he believes in Jesus.

2. Those that are still alive will also live if they believe in Jesus.

3. There is no sting in death because of Jesus. (I Corinthians)

F. Scripture holds forth no hope for those who do not believe in Jesus.

III. Mary's grief is shared.

A. Jesus was deeply troubled—He felt deep anger.

B. Jesus also broke into tears in His sympathy—He shared in their heartache. (Romans 12)

C. The word of God removes obstacles—our faith needs encouragement.

IV. Lazarus's life is restored.

A. Jesus calls out loudly to communicate to the people that it is His voice that calls out the dead.

B. We cannot regenerate people, but we can help people to be freed through fellowship, encouragement, etc.

C. This story is told that we might remember that the one with us is the Lord of Glory.

D. We are to look from the program to the Person.

Application questions:

1. How is Jesus the answer to death both immediately and in the future?

2. How does Jesus' response to Mary demonstrate God's character and show us how to respond to grief?

3. It is easy to look to Jesus' program over His Person—what does this mean and how can you better practice the latter?
