



“Crying and Laughing at Death”

October 31

Discussion Questions

1. Our culture oscillates between fear of death (anti-aging products, using euphemisms for death etc) and embracing death (abortion, euthanasia) – why do you think this is the case?
2. Read verses 32-37. What are the different ways that people react to Jesus weeping and how is that connected to the healing of Blind Bartimaeus?
3. Note verses 13, 14, 17, 21, 32, 39 and 44 of Chapter 11. Why is it so important for John to note that Lazarus was dead?
4. In what ways does the knowledge that God has the power to raise people from the dead, “another move on the chessboard”, give us hope and confidence in our daily lives?
5. What in your life might just be possible – relationship be healed, what character developed in you – if God has the power to raise the dead?

John 11: 32-44

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ 'Where have you laid him?' he asked.

'Come and see, Lord,' they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'

³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ 'Take away the stone,' he said.

'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.'

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.'

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face.

Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'