

Signs: The Defeat of Death

July 14, 2013

Welcome

- 1) What was the first funeral you remember attending? What was that experience like? What surprised you? What stands out in your memory?
- 2) What one thing (among many) do you want said at your funeral?

Word

Read John 11:1-11

- 1) What indication do we have in these verses that Jesus was friends with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus?
- 2) Why were the disciples cautious about returning to the area around Jerusalem?
- 3) Why do you think Jesus remained where he was for two days? Was it fear? Uncertainty? Obedience? Something else?

Read John 11:21-27

- 1) Why did Martha confront Jesus (v. 21)? What was she feeling? Was she justified in her actions?
- 2) What is revolutionary about Jesus' statement, "I am the resurrection and the life"? What do you imagine Martha was thinking when he said this? How did she take it? Do you think she was surprised? Shocked? Encouraged? Something else?

Read John 11:38-44

- 1) Jesus was "deeply moved" and he has already wept (v.35). What stands out to you regarding Jesus' emotional reaction to Lazarus' death?
- 2) What is significant about people believing Jesus was sent by God?
- 3) What does the sign of the raising of Lazarus point to? Why is this sign still significant today?

Read John 11:45-48

- 1) What were the Pharisees and chief priests afraid of?
- 2) Think about the following statement: "In Christ, death as the tool of the empire has been defeated." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Work

- 1) Do you currently (or have you in the past) ignore death? If so, why and what steps can you take to overcome this fear in Christ? If not, then what can you do to encourage others in overcoming the fear of death?

Worship

- 1) Psalm for the Day - Sun: 45 / Mon: 46 / Tue: 47 / Wed: 48 / Thu: 49 / Fri: 50 / Sat: 51
- 2) Pray for one another