

What Are We To Do?

Jesus Is Lord

John 11:1-6; 28-44

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

In this new sermon series, we will be guided by the confession “Jesus is Lord.” These words should lead us not only in voting in the current election, but also how we treat, love, and serve one another going forward. As forgetful, opinionated people, we often need reminding that we follow the person of Jesus rather than rules. Over the next four weeks, will be looking at the example of Jesus throughout the gospels, to fill us with hope and shape us as his disciples.

Read this first passage from John 11:1-6: *Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. **What is your initial reaction to Jesus’ response? Why do you think he did not go to them immediately?***

Read John 11:28-37: *When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’ **How do you see Jesus display empathy here? How does this make you feel hopeful? How can Jesus’ example of compassion teach us to see others in this light?***

Read John 11:38-44: *Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 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 for four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’ **Jesus did not have to speak out loud for God to hear him, but did so for the sake of the crowd. How has Jesus tried to get your attention lately? What helps you hear his voice?***

Heavenly Father, we confess that there are areas of our lives in which we don’t belong wholly to you. Draw us closer to you this week, so that you are Lord in all areas of our lives. Help us show compassion and empathy toward others, especially during this stressful week in our country, so that others may see your light. Amen.