



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Jesus Gives Life

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Bob Bradley

The Lord spoke to our hearts a few nights ago about this message for tonight. I know if I had my way, we would quit and go home. However, I can't do that because I don't get to call the shots. Do you know that? He is the boss. I'm just a servant. That is all we are. The field belongs to Him. We are just the workers. That is all we are. When we listen to His voice and do what He asks us to do; do you know what He will always do? He will always bless us. I enjoy the blessing of Almighty God. Don't you? The Bible says this...

John 11:1 Now a certain *man* was sick, *named* Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

John 11:2 (It was *that* Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

John 11:3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

John 11:4 When Jesus heard *that*, he said, **This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.**

John 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

John 11:6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

John 11:7 Then after that saith he to *his* disciples, **Let us go into Judaea again.**

Bethany is just a short distance here from Jerusalem. When you read your Bible, you will find out that it is just maybe a mile or two. It is just a very short walk from the city of Jerusalem. This is where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived. When you read the scriptures, do you know what you will find out? You will find out that Jesus Christ came here on different occasions and when He would come into this area; He would come down to Mary and Martha's house and He would stay down there. They would prepare food for Him. The Bible says here—get this—that He loved Mary and Martha and Lazarus.

I'm glad of something today. Do you know what these people were? They were people just like me and you. They were just human beings. That is all they were. There wasn't anything special about these guys. However, it tells us here that Jesus Christ loved Mary, Marth, and Lazarus.

Do you know what I am glad of tonight? I'm glad that He loves me. I'm glad that He loves you. I'm glad that we have a Savior tonight that loves us very much.

When you read the Bible, do you know what you will find out? It is just going to be a few days that Jesus is going to go, probably a month from now is when He is going to go to the cross. They were going to put Him on the cross just a short time from now. Do you know what? Listen. Even though He knew His time was short, He had some things He was going to do and He was going to let men know that He had the power over death.

Do you know what I am glad of tonight? I'm glad we serve a Savior that has power over death. You may put me in the grave one day. You may put me in the casket. You may shut me up and put me in the ground. However, do you know what? I'm not going to be dead. I'm going to be alive. I'm going to be alive forevermore.

Listen. The real person on the inside, we are going to get to live forever. Do you know what I say? I say glory to His name tonight. The Bible says here...

John 11:1 Now a certain *man* was sick, *named* Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

The Bible says that Lazarus begins to be sick. Do you know what they do? They do the right thing. They send for Jesus. When you have a need; do you know who you need to be looking for? You need to be looking for Jesus because He is the One who can take care of all the issues you have. I'm glad for doctors. I'm glad for Ibuprofen. I'm glad for Celebrex. However, do you know what I'm glad most of all? I'm glad there is a God in heaven that can touch us and give us healing to this body. Amen! He can do that. Can't He? I'm not going to say anything about this tonight Jan. I'm not going to do that. I have got a tearing...the Bible tells us this.

The Bible tells us that Lazarus is sick. The Bible tells us that—do you know what Mary and Martha does? They did exactly what they should have done. They sent for Jesus. They sent for Him because do you know what they knew? They knew He was the Son of Almighty God. They knew He was the Messiah. They knew He had power to raise him, or to touch him, or to give him health of give him healing.

Listen. If you are here tonight, or you are listening to me; you may be somewhere else around the world. You may be dead in your trespasses and your sins; I want to you understand something tonight. It doesn't matter how dead that you are. It doesn't matter how much sin you have committed. It doesn't matter what you have done. There is a Savior tonight that you can look for and you can find. Do you know what he will do? He will forgive you. He will cleanse you. Thank God, He will give you life and life more abundantly. Amen! The greatest life in the world is living a Christian life. There is nothing like being saved and to know where you are going. There is nothing like that. Amen!

I like macaroni and cheese and I like fried bologna and mustard too. Do you know what I like more than that? I like being where He is at. Don't you? I like being where He is at. I like Him filling us, and infusing us with His power, and moving us around and blessing us as He does. I am glad that He does that.

The Bible says when they sent for Jesus, when the servants came up there and told Jesus that Lazarus was sick; do you know what the Bible said that Jesus said? He said...

John 11:4 When Jesus heard *that*, he said, **This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.**

Get this. Jesus loved this family. He loved Lazarus. He loved Martha, and He loved Mary. Do you know what?

Listen. He loves you and He loves me. However, there may be times in our lives that there may be some dark days. That doesn't mean that Jesus doesn't love us. That doesn't mean that at all. He loved this family, yet they were going to see some very dark days.

Listen. God knows what He is doing. His ways are higher than our ways. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. When I compare what I know unto what God knows, do you know what? We are not even in the same hemisphere. God knows and most of the time, I don't know, nor do you.

John 11:4 When Jesus heard *that*, he said, **This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.**

Do you know what? God had a plan. Didn't He? God had a plan. God loves me and you but God has a plan. I don't know what the plan is. I do know what the big plan is. I do know one day He is going to come and get me and take me to heaven. However, I don't know what is going to take place tomorrow. I don't know all the speed bumps and issues and all the problems that we are going to have here in this life. There are going to be dark days. I want you to understand that. For every one of us sitting here tonight and listening to me tonight, there are going to be dark days. If we live very long, here on this earth, there are going to be dark days. There are going to be days that we may not know where to turn. There are going to be times that we may not know where to go.

Listen. When you get there, look for Jesus. Go talk to Him. He is the One that can take care of all the issues and all the problems you have. The Bible says that Jesus, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed two days where He was at. Do you know what He knew? He wanted to make sure that He was dead and by that, corruption had set in. After the third day, on the fourth day, corruption would have set in.

Do you know why Jesus was in the grave three days? Because corruption would set in on the fourth day. If you read the book of Psalms, do you know what you will find out? You will find out that Jesus' body was not going to see corruption. He had to get up from the grave on the fourth day.

He gets to Bethany. Do you know what happens? The women come out here where He is at. They begin to say, "Lord,"—Martha did— "if you had been here my brother

would not have died.” Do you know what Jesus said? “Hey, your brother is going to live again.”

Listen. We may be in the grave when Jesus calls, but thank God, there is going to be a resurrection day, one day. Amen!

John 11:4 When Jesus heard *that*, he said, **This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.**

He tells the disciples, “Let’s go. Let’s go to Bethany.” They get ready to go. He tells them...

John 11:7 Then after that saith he to *his* disciples, **Let us go into Judaea again.**

John 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, **Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.**

John 11:12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

John 11:13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

John 11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, **Lazarus is dead.**

John 11:15 **And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.**

He tells them, “Lazarus is just asleep.” Do you know what the disciples thought? They said, “Well, if he is sleeping, he is doing okay.” Do you know what Jesus went ahead and told them? He said, “He is dead.” He also tells them here, “He is dead.” He is going to do some great things here about that.

John 11:15 **And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.**

Do you know what God wants to do sometimes...? Do you know what He did? If He would always do things as soon as they happen in my life, if He would always give me healing, every time I had a pain, if He would always do a miracle every time I needed Him, just as soon as I needed Him; do you know what I would never understand? I would never understand much about the God of heaven.

Listen. He knows what He is doing. He knows what He is working out in my life. He knows that I need to trust Him. When dark days gets dark, when the clouds are hovering, when the lightening, is flashing, when the thunder is rolling, look up because He is God and He knows what He is doing. Amen! He does.

Do you remember Thomas? They called him doubting Thomas. Probably if we would have been there, we would have been a whole lot worse than Thomas was. Do you know what Thomas said? “Hey, let’s just go with Him.” They have been trying to kill us lately. If He is going down there, they are going to kill Him; they are going to kill us. Let’s just go with Him.” That’s what they did.

John 11:16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us

also go, that we may die with him.

They come. Like I said earlier they get to Bethany. The Bible tells us here that Martha is outside. As soon as she sees Him coming, she goes out and she gets to talk to Him. There is no doubt her heart is broken. Because you are going to read the story here, you are going to find out that when Jesus gets there, he has already been dead four days. They have already put him in the grave. They have already rolled up the stone. They had already wrapped him up. They embalmed him. There is no doubt these ladies thought their brother was gone.

Do you know what? Sometimes in life, things look hopeless and sometimes things look helpless. In my own life—do you know what I was think a while ago? When they were singing how blessed we are—there have been times in my life that I did not have any shoes to wear. There have been times in my life that I did not have a quarter to my name. There have been times in my life that we did not know how we were going to feed the kids or how we were going to live.

Do you know what God has always done? God has always blessed. He has always taken care of His people. Do you know what He will do? He will do the same thing for you.

Life may get...it may be dark sometimes and the clouds may be lowering. You look to Jesus. You hold onto Him. God will take care of you. Do you know one thing you can count on? Change. Because things are not always going to be the same. Amen! You may be in trouble today, you may be facing all kinds of issues today; but trust Jesus. Tomorrow is a new day. Amen!

John 11:21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

John 11:22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee.

John 11:23 Jesus saith unto her, **Thy brother shall rise again.**

John 11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

John 11:26 **And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**

John 11:27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

Jesus wants her to know that he may be in the grave. He may be dead. He may have been there four days and corruption may have already set in. However, do you know what He wants them to understand? He wants them to understand that He has the power to raise the dead.

I want to say something here tonight. Jesus Christ has not lost one bit of His power. He can raise people from the dead. Do you know how I know that? I know that He is going to one day.

Listen. There are untold millions that are in the grave tonight that has been there for many, many years and maybe even thousands of years. However, there is coming a day when there is going to come a sound from heaven. There is coming a day when the Son of God is going to come from heaven. He is not going to send Gabriel. He is not going to send Michael. He is not going to send another angel. He is going to come Himself. The Bible says He is going to come with a shout and the voice of the arch angel and the trump of God. The Bible says this: The dead in Christ shall be raised.

Listen. You may have been in the grave a thousand years. However, there is going to be a shaking, a quivering, a noise, a voice that is going to raise the dead. Hallelujah! That is the same God that dwells in here.

Do you know why we have life today? We have life today because He dwells in here. If you don't have Him today, you don't have life. That is the Bible. Isn't it? If you don't have Jesus Christ today, then you don't have life.

John 11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Martha with her limited understanding about scripture, about prophecy, about the end times; do you know what she knew? She knew enough that there was going to be a day that the dead was going to raise. She understood that. However, listen. She was thinking about out yonder. We do that sometimes.

We think God is never going to do anything. If He is going to do anything, it is way out there somewhere. However, God had other plans here. God was going to do something on this day. He was going to do something on this day. Do you know what God wants to do for you? He wants to do something for you today. He wants to transform your life. He wants to save you. He wants to forgive you. He wants to cleanse you. That is what God wants to do for you today. Do you know why? There may not be a tomorrow for you. The Bible says that today is the day of salvation. If you hear His voice, harden not your heart. Jesus Christ is speaking. He is calling. He wants to do something for you today.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

That is a good one. Isn't it? I am. The two words "I Am" is mentioned many times in scripture. All pertaining to Jesus. I Am, my friend. He says, "I Am the resurrection and the life." Do you know what He wants these women to know and all the crowd that is around there? He wanted them to understand—she was talking about the resurrection out there—but He wanted her to understand that He was the resurrection. He is the One that had power to raise the dead.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

John 11:26 **And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**

Do you know what He is telling these women? Listen. I am the resurrection and the life. I am the One that can give him life. That comes through me. That comes by me. If you will just believe that today, if you will just simply believe that I am the resurrection and the life, if you will believe that then there are going to be some things that are going to take place.

They are going to go towards the graveyard where they had put the body Lazarus there. He had already been there as I said earlier 4 days. They had already rolled the stone up. They had sealed it all up. Do you know what? As He is going toward the graveyard. Do you know what you will read when you read the Bible on down through here? You are going to find out here the Bible says that Jesus, in verse 35; the Bible says that He wept.

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

There is no doubt when He looked and saw Mary and Martha and all the grief that they had and all the sorrow that they had... Do you know what?

Listen. When you and I hurt, it touches Him. When you and I hurt He hurts. We have a high priest tonight that is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. The Bible says He was in all points, tempted as you and I are yet He did not sin. He looked around and He saw all that was going on here; all the sorrow, all the grief and all the mourning. It touched Him on the inside. I want to tell you something tonight. When we suffer and when we are going through issues in life, it touches the heart of Almighty God. He knows what is going on. He loves you just like He loved this family and it hurts Him when you hurt.

Could you imagine that? The God of heaven, the Creator weeping when you and I weep. It touches Him. He is God. It touches Him when you and I are hurting.

They are going towards the graveyard. There are all kinds of mourners around. During that time, they would actually pay mourners to come to funerals and morn, sing, and to grieve and so forth. That was just something they did. That was the custom back in those days. They are going towards the cemetery; the place where they had laid Lazarus. The Bible tells us here, when you down through here. It is going to tell us here that the grave was a cave, a place that they had hewn out of the rock. That is what they did back then in the land of Israel. If you read much about it, you just have to get just a little bit under the ground. There is just a little bit of top soil there. They have limestone everywhere. That is where they would bury their people. They could not dig 6 feet in the ground, but they would hew out the graves, or sepulchers in the side of the hill in limestone. They would put their bodies in there and then they would roll a stone up and seal it with mortar and that would keep the animals away from the body.

Lazarus had died. They had put him in there. They had embalmed. They had did all that they had done to him just like they were supposed to. They are coming towards the grave. They are coming towards the tomb. There are people weeping. Jesus is weeping. Do you know what?

Get this. When you read verse 39, He looks around and says, “Hey, guys, you guys take away the stone. Do you know what Jesus could have done? He could have rolled away the stone himself. That was not a problem. Do you know what?

In my life and in your life, there are things that I can do for myself that does not require a miracle. Do you know what? I can put my shoes on today. I might need a miracle to do that tomorrow but today I can put my shoes on. there are things that I can do for myself. Do you know what these guys could do? It did not take a miracle to roll away the stone, but it was going to take a miracle to raise the dead.

Listen. You and I have some things that we can do. Some things that we can do in this thing that God has called you and me to do. The Bible says, roll away the stone or take away the stone. Martha said, Hey, he is already stinking now. He has been dead four days. Do you know what Jesus said? He said...

John 11:40 Jesus saith unto her, **Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?**

Do you know what happens to you and me sometimes? We just don't want to simply believe what God is going to do. I want you to understand tonight—listen—days may be dark, the clouds may be hovering, but Jesus Christ is still God and He is still on the right hand of the throne of God tonight. He hasn't changed any. You and I change. We decay. We slow down. We can't do, work, live as we used to because of age. However, He does not change.

Listen. I may be slow today and out of breath today and can't remember too good today; but that may be different tomorrow. Do you know why? It is because I may have a new body tomorrow. Amen! I'm going to have one. That may be tomorrow. That would be different. Won't it? There is a message there but we will talk about that some other time.

Jesus said this. He prays in verse 41.

John 11:41 Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, **Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.**

John 11:42 **And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.**

Get this. Lazarus was inside the tomb, laying on a shelf, wrapped in grave clothes, wrapped from head to toe. Looked like a big log laying there, just wrapped in clothing.

That is how they did it. They wrapped bodies in linen. They would put a wrap of linen and put spices on it. They would wrap it again and more spices. It kept down the odor of decomposition. Here he is laying inside this hallowed out rock in the hill. Here stands probably hundreds of people on the outside that can't do anything, except cry and console the family and tell them how sorry they are. However, there is one guy in the crowd who is about to do something. Amen!

Get this. Have you ever been in a cave? We used to work in the deep mines, and coal mines and things like that. You could go back in those caves or mines or whatever and you could speak and your voice would just ring. It would echo. It would travel. Jesus is standing outside this tomb with a dead guy on the inside. Could you imagine what His voice sounded like when He said, "Lazarus, come forth." His voice probably rung. You could probably hear His voice echo inside that limestone cave/grave.

Get this. There was not an intervention, there was not a time, there was not a space between when Jesus said, "Lazarus, come forth" and Lazarus coming forth. In other words, Jesus did not say the words and five minutes later Lazarus gets up. It doesn't work that way. When Jesus said, "Lazarus, come forth." Do you know what Lazarus did? He came forth. Amen! There wasn't an interval of time between that.

Get this. He told the crowd to roll away the stone. They could do that. Do you know what He knew? He knew they couldn't raise the dead. He took care of that. Amen! Look what He says here to them though.

John 11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, **Loose him, and let him go.**

Lazarus had been given life back but now he liberty. He needed somebody to cut him loose. He couldn't cut himself loose. Even though he was alive on the inside of all the stuff they had him wrapped up with, do you know what Jesus said? Cut him loose and let him go. Do you know what they did? They began to unwrap at him. There is no doubt in my mind that they would have been utterly, absolutely amazed that Lazarus is alive. A guy that they knew had died. He had been dead four days. There were no questions about that. He had been there four days. He had been wrapped up. They knew he was dead. Now he is alive.

Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live. Whosoever, liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

I am going to ask you that question tonight. Do you believe that Jesus can give you life? Do you believe that Jesus can give you life? Do you believe that Jesus can forgive you of your sin? Do you believe that even though you are dead in your trespasses and sin; do you believe that Jesus can give you life tonight?

Friend, if you are here, you are listening to me, wherever you are at tonight and you believe that; listen, you may be listening and being dead, but do you know what? You can continue listening and be alive. Amen! Jesus wants to loose you and let you go. He wants to give you freedom. He wants to give you liberty. He wants to give you eternal life. He wants to give you that life tonight. Amen!

He cares about you, friend. It is not Jesus Christ's will that any should perish. It is not His will that you spend eternity in a lake of fire. It is not His will, but it is His will that you come and be saved, be born again. Give your life to Him. Change your life. The rest of your life can be the best of your life. You may have had a good life, or you may have had a life that has been a wreck; I don't know anything about none of you. I do know one thing. The rest of your life can be the best of your life if you will give your life to Jesus Christ tonight. Why don't you come?

Come and pray—