

Aveleigh's Year of the Bible
Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 18,2018
Sermon; LAZARUS AND YOUR MOST DESPERATE PRAYER
Text: John 11: 38-44 p. 1153

My Desperate Prayer is:

1. JESUS DEMONSTRATES A UNIQUE TIMING. *“So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, he stayed where he was for the next two days. Finally, he said to his disciples, ‘Let’s go back to Judea.’”* John 11:5-7 (NLT)

2. JESUS OFFERS A BIGGER LIFE.

“When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.’ Jesus told her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ ‘Yes,’ Martha said, ‘he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.’ Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?’” John 11:20-26 (NLT)

“I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as your trust in him.”
Ephesians 3:16-17a (NLT)

“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead.”
Ephesians 1:19-20a (NLT)

3. JESUS REVEALS A HEART THAT BREAKS.

“When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. ‘Where have you put him?’ he asked them. They told him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Then Jesus wept. The people who were standing nearby said, ‘See how much he loved him!’” John 11:33-36 (NLT)

4. JESUS DISPLAYS A POWER THAT TRANSFORMS.

“‘Roll the stone aside,’ Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, ‘Lord he has been dead for four days. ‘The smell will be terrible.’ Jesus responded, ‘Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?’ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, thank you for hearing me You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.’ Then Jesus shouted, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth.” John 11:39-44a (NLT)

5. JESUS CALLS THE COMMUNITY TO HELP.

“Jesus told them, ‘Unwrap him and let him go!’” John 11:44b (NLT)

Prayer: God, thank you that in our confusion and doubt and fear and worry that you never stop loving us. My prayer for this community of incredible people is that we would grasp your bigger picture for our lives and put our trust in you. And then we’d express that trust by following you in your teachings and your ways. Today we recommit to rely on your power and to live out your presence in our lives. We pray that we’d be different people when we leave here today. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Four For The Road:

1. How does timing expectations hinder one’s prayer life?
2. Why did Jesus wait 3 days to answer Mary and Martha’s request?
3. Jesus resurrected Lazarus 8 day before whose resurrection? Why?
4. Jesus taughted Mary and Marthy to focus on who He was rather than what day it is or how great their needs, Why?

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Prayer of confession:

O Jesus, who called Lazarus from his tomb, and presented him alive to his friends, call us, we pray, from the tombs which seek to stifle the lives we have. Remove from us the grave clothes which yet hinder our free movement in your Spirit. Through the power of your name. Amen