

The Christ who came to raise the dead (Jn. 11:1-16)

There are times that you face hardships along the way as you live your life. You may question God and also at times there are no answers from God. There is one thing that you must do and that is worship and prayer. Worship and prayer is so important. That is why you must come to church with the heart of prayer. You must come to church as you read the bible and meditate on it. Of course, God gives you the word and God does according to the word from the upcoming week. That is why in prayer you must approach worship and God. Even today God has given us an important message. Why did Jesus come to raise the dead to save them? It's truly outstanding. Lazarus was dead and had a foul smell yet God was able to revive him. Couple days ago I listened to the testimony of a missionary. She was a female missionary who worked in the IT field and became infected with COVID. This was before the vaccine and any medications so she was on the brink of death. She was preparing for her death by making a list of all of her sponsors and contact information so that they are able to reach out to them. On her last breath she regained her strength. At that very moment so much terror overcame her. So much fear came towards her. If you were in her shoes imagine all the terror overcoming you. But at that time she had a thought, "I am saved and I will ascend to heaven." With those thoughts all of her fear casted away and peace was brought within her. Of course, she didn't face death because she survived and lived. This testimony was about her being able to begin anew and being able to entrust everything to the Lord. At that very moment nothing else could help her except for God alone but how is this possible. This is because the Lord saved her from death so may this be your covenant. May you receive much grace and may this be the covenant you never forget. Christ does not only save those and raise them from the dead but he also saves your life. We are so weak and lacking, including my own self and we witness our lives drifting and rotting away. In many cases nothing is taking place within our lives and it's the same even now. Whoever it may be, as long as they receive grace, hold to the covenant, and give worship and prayer they will be able to live. Their life and family will all be revived and saved. We have witnessed in many cases when the gospel was proclaimed to broken families they became revived. Of course we rightfully share the gospel all over the world but through the gospel we proclaim it saves them. May this be a sure covenant to you throughout the week and may you be saved and stand as a witness. The sole purpose of the church is evangelism. Of course, there are different departments and fellowships taking place within the church but the end goal is evangelism. That is why there must be the evangelist raised within the church and God has no choice but to send the precious evangelists to the church. The church must establish training to raise up the evangelists and the church must establish a system to help the evangelists. It is rightful and this is what a church is. We must be able to pass this on to the next generations and for the sake of that we must raise up the remnants. The church must be the place to raise the remnants. Not only that, the pastors and the church ministers must place the remnants in their heart and pray for them. For all the as-

sociate pastors including myself, we must do our diligent best in the place that God has called us to serve. Rightfully so, you must have and show interest in the remnants. Remnants are in the time of their lives where they are learning and developing. They must never lose this time period and opportunity. Spirituality, skills, and ability that they can learn is very important. That is why the church officers play a pivotal role for the remnants. The remnants are in the developmental stage that is why they do not have the wit to have quick judgements. Of course, they lack many experiences because they have not yet gone out into the real world. That's why it's very important for the church officers to play the role of giving advice and guidance to the remnants. We're able to see that many of the church officers play an important role along with the church ministers. In some cases, there are church officers that play a much more important role compared to the pastor. Last semester we listened to the testimony of a church officer during the church officers graduation. When we listened to the elders testimony I saw that he was a very renowned individual, better than a pastor. 1 Kings 18 emphasizes the historical church officer at that time which was Obadiah. Obadiah laid the foundation of Elisha's Dothan movement. We must be able to see that Obadiah was greatly used to lay the foundation of the work that Elijah and Elisha were able to partake in. For the New Testament the great figures used by God who were church officers were Priscila and Equila and the host Gaius. This was a time where the expansion of the evangelism movement was on the rise as well as the persecution that they faced. Of course, you are able to see that they played a pivotal role to the extent that it was unseen to the eyes. And there are many important female church officers as well. Let us think about Moses's mother, Jochebed. At that time of age, it was quite difficult to resolve inside her heart. Yet, she did such tremendous work that no man could ever do. She held to the sure message that God had given her. And during the time she was breastfeeding him and nurturing him, she spoke only of the covenant and of the book of Genesis. After Moses was taken into the palace, there was no longer an opportunity for him to hear the Gospel. But during the time he was kicked out of the palace and in the wilderness, it was the time he could record the book of Genesis which is what his mother told him about. Who would share the Gospel with him in the palace? And in the time of the wilderness in Midian, who could have relayed the message to him? So, all that he had heard from his mother was deeply rooted in him at a young age. Jochebed knew the sure reason to which she was a woman of prayer who held to God's sure message. She was a woman who knew the true reason why she needed to relay the gospel to her son. That is why she held to the sure message. During the time the nation was dying, Hannah was able to see that there needed to be a true Nazirite. Hannah came to realize God needed a Nazirite that was able to stake their life to save that age with the covenant. Of course, Samuel was greatly used by God, yet it was Hannah that did the fundamental work. We must be able to see it was Hannah's sure message and prayer that overturned the age of that time. Rahab was a prostitute. That is what is stated in the Bible. Yet, her judgement and decision level were that of a Harvard student. After she heard the news, she was able to resolve inside her heart and come to the answer. She was able

to see that this would never take place with her own power. She truly came to the answer and even betrayed her own nation, and she looked towards the Lord. It was difficult for even a man to resolve just as she did. That is why the church must be filled with people who are able to truly match with God's intentions, thoughts, and plans. Also, God is the one that truly needs the person who is able to hold onto God's thought as their own to which they are able to pray and match with Him. I do hope that many of the church officers will be raised, especially the female church officers that will do the historical work. This is not the time to nitpick over genders. Even through the West Synod, we have appointed two female pastors. There are still debates and gossip on the topic regarding appointing female pastors in Korea. But, from God's perspective, he is more focused on testifying the Gospel and saving those that are spiritually dying rather than nitpicking whether a male or female is appointed as a pastor. He is more focused on sending someone that is able to testify of Christ who will raise those that are dead. May we be the church that holds onto the sure covenant, opens our spiritual eyes, and truly raises North America, South America, the remnants, and people of all nations. Even for you, remnants, please don't simply wait for the adults to do something for you. May you do your best and hold onto the covenant. You must pray to God, "God, let me be the one that is greatly used to save the church, my family, and hold to the sure covenant."

1. The Christ Who Came to Raise the Dead

The first point we'll look at is "The Christ Who Came to Raise the Dead." When this message becomes your own covenant, you will be saved. Your life will be revived and saved when you truly hold onto Jesus who is the Christ, who has come to raise the dead. When you truly hold onto the covenant that it is Christ who has come to raise me from the dead, you will live. It is Christ who came to save you. It is Christ who will save your life, your thoughts, and your heart. It is Christ who came and will save your family, your economy, and your children. He is God Himself. What can He not save? Likewise, with evangelism and mission, it is Christ who will save and revive it all. May you hold to the sure covenant, and may your surroundings be revived and saved through Christ. Verse 4 states, "But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'" It says that this illness is not an illness that leads to death but for the sake of the Son of God to be glorified. We may face an illness like this. We may face an illness that God will heal and glorify God. We all face an illness in which we are able to testify that it is only Jesus that is the Christ. If we calculate the times, we are able to see that, in the four days, Lazarus had already been dead. It was likewise for the man who was born blind in John 9 that we read a couple of weeks ago. And Jesus answered, "It is not that this man sinned or his parents sinned but that the works of God might be displayed through him." That is why the man was born blind: so that Jesus could command, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam," and prove that He was the one sent by God. It states the same thing in John 11:42. Towards the end of the chapter, He states, "I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the

people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." It is Jesus Christ who has been sent from God. It is God Himself who sent him. Lazarus was the one who held a foul smell and had died for 4 days. It was an illness that was purposefully led to death to show that he was suppressed. And of course, we all face hardships. We must be able to see our hardships from this point of view. We may compare your life to the lives of the Israelites when they were in the wilderness. God has permitted all the problems in the time of the wilderness so that they could believe in God and be raised as the summit. That is the sole purpose. During the time of the wilderness, their legs and feet ached, but that was not recorded in the Bible. Why did the Red Sea appear before them all of a sudden? It led them to see who God is. It was God's message for them to go inside of the land of Canaan and apply the blood of the lamb during Exodus to know who God is. Within the time of Kadesh Barnea, they cried throughout the night. There were many problems that they faced along the way. But all the Israelites that had the mindset that they were not going to make it out of the wilderness alive were not able to enter the land of Canaan. This is a tremendous message. All those that have the mindset that the hardships that God allows would make them crumble could not enter the land of Canaan. Our present time of entering the land of Canaan is to enjoy Christ, confess it, and hold to it as your covenant, but if you see your hardships as a time for you to perish, you cannot enter the land of Canaan. What will happen to those within hardships? If they are able to have a time for reflection, then they will become the summit. It is all in vain if you continuously complain about hardships because you will not be able to enter the land of Canaan. In the present time, entering the land of Canaan in world evangelism. There are many of us who may complain about our hardships, disabling us to enter the land of Canaan of world evangelism as our eyes are not opened to see this with spiritual eyes. In the end, your life will be of vain to which your life will not be used for world evangelization. As time passes, you could look back to see that it was a time for you to come to an answer. God has permitted the problem so that you may open your eyes, confess of Christ, truly have victory, and have conquest over all things. However, you only see it as a problem and plow into it to which you cannot be used for world evangelism. And at that time, you might feel as though it is unfair because God did not work through you. You have no choice but to be in struggle and frustration with God, but in that moment you must be able to open your spiritual eyes to come to see this. Why have you come to worship God? Simply to end with grace? To hold onto God's one word? To simply come in the act of worshipping gGod? God says not to do that. God desires for you to have a time of worship, hold to the covenant, and open your spiritual eyes so that you are in the place He desires for you to stay. There are times when I read the prayer topics you write for offering. I do understand where your heart comes from, but your prayers should not end with that. You must believe this. Does heaven really exist to you? It does and you must believe in this. It is wisdom in which you can live life as heaven. It is at the pre-school level if you pray in thanksgiving that God has saved you. If you come to realize it more to the covenant, you will realize that you do not need to pray to receive answers to all things. May

the church officers and Remnants like this be raised. You must be able to raise evangelists like this. This is the meaning of life. After passing away you will see that it was all in vain. For the sake of God's glory, he stayed two days more than he was supposed to. He states 'Let us go to Judea.' The disciples say in Verse 8, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" There is an important message in Verse 9-10. "Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.'" What does it mean when one is walking at night? This means they are walking with Satan instead of Jesus. Because there is no light inside of him, they have no choice but to stumble. These are the words of the Lord. "If you are worried, abide with me." If you abide with someone else, you have no choice but to stumble. He says, "If you do not walk with me, you will stumble." The Lord's message is "Who am I?" and to "simply follow after me." Verse 11 states, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." I do believe that Jesus purposefully said this to the disciples because where he goes, they follow. He wanted to reveal their spiritual state. God already knew that all would be overturned. He spoke of it purposefully to bring them embarrassment, but prove that He is the Christ. In verse 12, it says, "The disciples said to him, "Lord if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Jesus directly tells them that Lazarus has died and that was in verse 14. In verse 15, he states the reason, "and for your sake, I am glad that I was not there." If Jesus was there then Lazarus would not have died. The Lord testifies that he is the one that will raise Lazarus from the dead. Of course, Thomas goes to the very end saying, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." It does not matter and Thomas says that they should be stoned along with Jesus. Thomas was later embarrassed. I do believe that Thomas was more embarrassed than the other disciples, but yet he was able to see that it was his mistake. Even in today's message, the Lord says that Jesus has come to save us. Jesus Christ has come to raise your life that is rotting away including your thoughts and your heart. He says that he has placed the breath of life within you so you must return back to me. Especially for those in which nothing is taking place according to your heart, please hold onto the covenant and be within it. Don't just simply end by listening to the message, may you truly hold to the covenant and remain in it. You must be able to hold onto the living word of God that will be your word throughout the week and live your life. When you do that God's word will be active because his word is living. That is why even if you simply confess and hold to the covenant just a little, God will be at work. Do you truly believe that the word is the answer to all? Do you truly believe in this fact? God does everything according to the Word, so do you believe in this? Surely, you must hold onto the word. When you hold onto the word as your covenant you will be saved because God has come to save you. It doesn't matter if you have been rotting for days, because it is Christ who will save it all. It does not matter if your life is falling apart including your heart and your thoughts because it is Christ who will revive all for you. Likewise for your economy, family, and children, it will all be rotting away. It does not matter

if evangelism and the doors of missions are not being opened, but yet within Christ it will all be saved. Do you truly believe that it is only the Lord that will save it all? May you hold to the covenant. May you hold to the sure covenant, if you perish, you perish.

2. Our Lifelong Desire

For what reason do you live? What is most precious and valuable to you? If you are aligned to God's greatest desire, you will be able to enjoy your life. John 11:40, Jesus says, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" John 11:42, says, "That they may believe that you sent me." Verse 44, "Unbind him, and let him go." How thankful are we for this? We must be in tears for this. We are seized by something within our hearts and minds to which we are unable to look to him. Our thoughts are seized by money to the extent that we can never look to him. There are many other cases that may take place that we are seized by. What will happen if you enjoy Christ? When you enjoy Christ, you will be unbound by all you are seized by. Within all hardships, you may be seized and compelled by it. However, God says that if you enjoy Christ, then you will be unbound by all you are seized and compelled by. That is who Christ is. The life that we live is all for the sake of God's glory. There is nothing that we must be more grateful for, and we must continuously be able to see this work. It is the Christ who came to raise the dead, if you have faith in this you will live. This is God's glory. It is truly amazing in verse 44 states, "The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth." Many people were very stunned to see this happen. Yet, Jesus quietly tells them, "Unbind him, and let him go." This is mankind's happiness and thanksgiving. Through God's Word that will receive all the glory, there is one thing that he desires to do. It is so that they may believe that you sent me. This is the reason why God has allowed this incident to take place. God has allowed this incident to take place so that all may believe in him. The man who was born blind became a sure witness of Christ. All the words of the Pharisees spoken to them became unnecessary. Our greatest desire is to stand as a sure witness of Christ. To be honest, there is nothing more precious and valuable in life than this. This is God's eternal desire. Even today, God is giving us the message that he is our Christ. If we continue this, then God's glory will be upon you. We will be able to enjoy and be able to testify of the glory of God wherever we go. That is the greatest blessing for us. May your spiritual eyes be opened during the church camp and many important doors open to the extent that we will be used to save America, South America, the remnants, and people of all nations. We must partake in 237. South America is filled with 5,000 people groups. We must be used for this work. Even today, that is why we pray, Lord inside of Christ please grant us the five powers. May the blessing be upon you as you hold onto the covenant of Christ so that every aspect of your life that is rotting away will be revived and saved. I bless you in the name of the Lord that this blessing will be upon us all.