



Fifth Sunday of Lent - Unarmed “Hope Without Control”

John 11:1-45

Hope is not the power to prevent loss; it's the trust that God is at work beyond it.”

It's The Fifth Sunday of Lent

The season of Lent offers us a time to consider how best to identify with Jesus during the forty days from the Cross to Easter. This series will teach us what it means to face injustice, evil, and suffering by laying down everything but love.

What does it mean to be unarmed with nothing but love in our current culture? What are the barriers we put up to protect us?

Today, we are going to explore a story of Jesus raising a man named Lazarus from the dead, and we're going to learn what it means to hope and trust in God when all hope is lost.

HOPE IS NOT THE POWER TO PREVENT LOSS; IT'S THE TRUST THAT GOD IS AT WORK BEYOND IT.

John 11:1-45

- *Jesus receives the news that his dear friend is dying. And does nothing.*
- *The disciples are confused, and Jesus is vague, typically Johannine.*
- *Jesus arrives on the fourth day after Lazarus died. There is no more hope.*
- *Martha wavers between faith and doubt—She wants to believe.*
- *Mary is simply heartbroken—full of questions.*
- *Jesus weeps—sorrow that stems from anger and compassion.*

This story foreshadows things to come, but it's also a story for those who struggle with grief and loss and are filled with questions for God.

Some Important Questions

1. *We all have had moments when it feels like God didn't show up.*
2. *Hope in the middle of hard times is grounded in trust that God isn't done.*
3. *How can we learn to live into this kind of hope?*

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SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent

Richard Rohr

Show Me The Way

Henri Nouwen

A Way Other Than Our Own

Walter Brueggeman

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