



Gary Inrig – The Miracles (The Death Conqueror)

Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Stood Out To You – and “Why? (Something strike you - strange – new or different?)”

Week 13 – Read Chapter Thirteen – The Death Conqueror – the Raising Of Lazarus

Read – John Chapter 11:1-44

***NOTE:** Before beginning it is always good to see if there are any immediate prayer needs among the group and be sure to include within opening prayer. Remind all too that ... *“What we say here stays here” so there is freedom in sharing – we are all learning from each other and from the Holy Spirit together – “Iron sharpens Iron” (Proverbs 27:17)*

Opening Prayer: Thank You Lord Jesus for this time and this teaching – Holy Spirit be with us as we read and discuss and share – we ask that You would reveal those things that You have for have for this group and also those things that You have for us individually -to see and to learn and to hear from You. We Thank You – for Your insights and the new ideas we receive tonight - we pray this in Jesus name - amen!

Overview: In this chapter - Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead - demonstrating Christ's authority over death itself. Through the story of Lazarus's illness, death, and resurrection, Gary drives home the point, that Jesus is not just someone who can perform resurrections but is Himself "the resurrection and the life." Death, while still an enemy in our lives, it does not have the final say so - for believers in Christ. Through His own death and resurrection, Jesus has swallowed up death and transformed it —into a pathway for eternal life. This miracle concerning Lazarus - assures all believers that God's delays are not denials, and His seeming indifference serves His greater purpose. Our “hope” of life eternal is not just some whimsical notion – but Christ’s guarantee for all who believe on Him!

- **Death comes for everyone** – Ready or not – it is an unwelcome intruder.
- **God's delays are not denials** - Jesus's timing may not match ours, but His purposes are always for our good and His glory.
- **Jesus wept at Lazarus's tomb** - Showing His deep sympathy with our sorrows and His understanding of our pain
- **Because of Christ's resurrection** - death for believers is not fatal or final - but a transformation from this life into life eternal

“We tend to interpret God's love by circumstances. We need to interpret circumstances in the light of His unfailing love, His wise purposes, and His unfailing promises.”- Gary Inrig

Read Together: John 11:1-44



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever experienced a time when God's timing seemed completely off, but later you understood His purpose? Share briefly with the group.

2. Jesus told His disciples He was "glad" He wasn't there so they could believe (v. 15). What does this show us about God's purposes in our suffering? How does this challenge or comfort you?

3. Jesus wept at Lazarus' tomb even though He knew He would raise him. What does this say about how God views our suffering and grief?

4. The ultimate question that Jesus asked Martha was - "***Do you believe this?***" How would you answer that question today? What doubts or struggles do you have when it comes to believing in Christ's promise of resurrection and eternal life in Him?

5. In His "***I Am***" Declaration - Jesus didn't just promise resurrection (*as some future event*); He said, "***I AM the resurrection and the life.***" What difference does this distinction make?

- BONUS QUESTION*** - How does this "***I AM***" passage change the way you view death for yourself or for your believing loved ones?



Things to Do this Week - Try to Put At Least One into Practice (These are only thought starters) –

- **Reach out:** - to someone who is grieving from a loss - send a card, make a call, text or visit.
- **Journal:** - Write out your honest answer/thoughts to Jesus's question: "Do you believe this?" just as though He were asking you. Include your beliefs and your doubts.
- **Think On these things:** - interpret your present circumstances in light of God's love. When facing a difficult situation or any troubling thoughts this week, take some time and list three truths about God's character (draw from your or others' past experience with God) before reacting to your situation.

Closing Prayer: *(this prayer is only a suggestion - please pray on your own as the Holy Spirit leads)*

–Note: If there are any needs that have arisen during the study tonight – lift these up - especially.

Lord God – we lift up those here in our group who may be grieving or facing loss – we ask You God to strengthen our faith in You Lord Jesus as the resurrection and the life – Give all of us the courage to trust Your sovereign timing - even when it doesn't make any sense. Thank You Jesus for conquering death and being our guarantee of eternal life for all who believe on Your name! Give us opportunities to share this hope with others who are facing death or coping with the loss of a loved one we pray In Jesus' name. - Amen!