

“Word Of Life”
John 11:38-46

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To The Gospel Of John:
 - And - To Chapter 11:
 - Where - This Morning - We Come To:
 - The Climax Of The Chapter!
 - Which Is - Jesus' Miracle Of:
 - Raising His Friend & Follower:
 - Lazarus - From The Dead!
2. Of Course - Jesus' Miracle:
 - Follows Four Of Jesus' Meetings:
 - That All Anticipate The Miracle!
 - First - A Meeting With:
 - A Messenger!
 - To Whom Jesus Said:
 - That Lazarus' Sickness Was “Not Unto Death, But For The Glory Of God!” (11:4)
 - Then - A Meeting With:
 - His Disciples!
 - Who Jesus Told:
 - That Lazarus Was Only Sleeping - But He Was Going To Go:
 - To - “Awake Him Out Of Sleep!” (11:11)
 - Jesus Third Meeting In This Chapter:
 - Was A Meeting With Martha!
 - To Whom Jesus Said:
 - “Thy Brother Shall Rise Again!” (11:23)
 - Because - He Is “The Resurrection And The Life!”
 - And Then - Jesus Met With:
 - Martha's Sister, Mary:
 - To Whom He Spoke:
 - Not With Words - But:
 - With His Tears!
 - 11:35 - “Jesus Wept!”
3. So - Four Meetings:
 - That All Lead Up To:
 - The Miracle That We Read About Next:
 - In 11:38-46 - “Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. / 39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been [dead] four days. / 40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? / 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. / 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. / 43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. / 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. / 45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. / 46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done!”
4. Now - The First Thing We Notice From These Verses:
 - Is That - As Jesus Heads To Lazarus' Tomb:
 - In 11:38 - Jesus Responds To:
 - All The Sorrow & Grief Around Him:
 - By - Once Again - “Groaning In Him Himself!”
 - If You Remember:
 - From 11:33 - The First Time:
 - Jesus “Groaned In His Spirit!”
 - It Was Most Likely A Holy Reaction:

- To The Reason Behind All:
 - Of The Sorrow!
- Even - The Fallen Nature:
 - Of This World & Mankind:
 - Because Of Sin & Satan Himself!
 - Which Is Why - He Would Have Groaned:
 - In Anger & Indignation!
- But This Time - In 11:38:
 - Jesus Was - “Again Groaning In Himself!”
 - And - The Reason Seems To Be:
 - An Even Deeper Reaction:
 - Based On The Response Of Some Of The Jews - That We Heard:
 - Back In 11:37!
 - Where - “Some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?”
 - And - It Is Because Of These Words That:
 - In 11:38 - We Are Told:
 - “Therefore - Jesus Again Groaning In Himself Cometh To The Grave!”
 - And - With This - We Can See That:

1. The Power Of Doubt:

- Is Strong! We’re Going To Look Back At 11:37 Again:
 - Because - Even Though:
 - What Was Said Here - Is Quite Similar:
 - To What Both Martha & Mary Said To Jesus - What They Meant:
 - Was Much Different!
 - Because - When Some Of The Jews:
 - Asked This Question:
 - It Was Full Of Doubt:
 - In The Person & The Power:
 - Of Jesus!
- In 11:37 - When They Asked:
 - “Could Not This Man?”
 - It Was An Expression Of:
 - Disbelief!
 - When Martha & Mary:
 - Said To Jesus:
 - 11:21, 32 - “Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died!”
 - They Said These Words:
 - With Conviction & Confidence!
 - But - Not So These Other Jews!
 - Because - The Power Of Doubt Is Strong!
- Then - In 11:37 - When They Remarkd About How:
 - Jesus Had - “Opened The Eyes Of The Blind!”
 - It Was More An Expression Of:
 - Disgust!
 - Of Course - They Are Referring To:
 - The Most Recent Miracle Of Jesus:
 - In Jerusalem - Found In Chapter 9!
 - The Healing Of The Man Born Blind!
 - But - Even There:
 - Many Of The Jews Did Not Even Believe:
 - That A Miracle Had Taken Place!
 - Which Is Why They Questioned:
 - The Man & His Parents:
 - Over & Over Again!
 - And So - The Disgust They Felt For Jesus:

- Then - Carried Over Until Now!
 - Because - The Power Of Doubt Is Strong!
- But Also - In 11:37 - When The Jews Question:
 - Whether Or Not Jesus Could Have:
 - “Caused That Even This Man Should Not Have Died!”
 - It Was Said In A:
 - Derogatory Way!
 - Which They Would Echo Later:
 - When Jesus Is Crucified:
 - By Mocking Him!
 - And Saying:
 - “He Saved Others, Himself He Cannot Save!” (Matthew 27:42)
 - And So - Because:
 - The Power Of Doubt Is So Strong:
 - Their Compassion For:
 - Martha & Mary - Turned Into:
 - Another Controversy About Jesus!
- And - All This Is Why:
 - Again - 11:38 - Jesus Groans In Himself Again!
 - And So - As Jesus Made His Way:
 - To Lazarus’ Tomb:
 - He Continued To Mourn!
 - Not Primarily Because Of:
 - The Death Of His Friend - But:
 - Because Of The Doubts:
 - Of So Many - Whose Hearts Remained Hard 7 Spiritually Dead!
 - The Power Of Doubt Was Strong:
 - In The Hearts Of Those Jews!
 - And - The Power Of Doubt:
 - Often Remains Strong:
 - In Our Own Hearts!
 - But - There Is Something:
 - That Is As Strong As - Or Even Stronger:
 - Than The Power Of Doubt!
 - And - That Is What We Find Next:
 - In 11:39 - Which Is:

2. ***The Power Of Death!***

- The Power Of Death Is Strong As Well!
 - Because - After Jesus Came To The Grave Of Lazarus:
 - Which - 11:38 - Was A Cave With A Stone Lying Against Its Opening:
 - And Jesus Said / Commanded - “Take Ye Away The Stone!” (11:39)
 - How Did Martha React?
 - Not With The Same Faith:
 - As She Expressed Back In:
 - 11:27 - “Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world!”
 - This Time - Her Faith Faltered!
 - And - She Speaks Up:
 - Not *For* Christ - But:
 - *Against* Him!
 - Because - 11:39 - After Jesus Said:
 - “Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been [dead] four days!”
 - The Reality Of Death:
 - Stripped Martha:
 - Of The Strength Of Her Faith!
 - Because - The Power Of Death Is Strong!

- And - It Often Has:
 - The Same Effect On Us!
 - Doesn't It?
- The Realities Of Life & Death:
 - All Too Often Cause Us To Forget:
- The Position Of The Lord!
 - Now - Even Though Martha:
 - Once Again - Called Jesus - "Lord!"
 - Master! This Time:
 - She Was Not Acting As If:
 - He Was Lord! Even Her Lord!
 - She Forgot Her Place - And:
 - Put Herself Into His Place:
 - As The "Lord" Of The Situation!
 - After All - Who Would The People:
 - Listen To - There At Lazarus' Tomb?
 - The Friend Of The Dead?
 - Or The Family Of The Dead?
 - A Visitor To The Tomb?
 - Or The Sister Of Lazarus?
 - When Martha Objected To Jesus' Order:
 - To Take Away The Stone!
 - She Got In The Way Of:
 - Jesus' Will!
 - How Often Does This Happen To Us?
 - When We Say - "Jesus Is Lord!"
 - But - When It Comes To The Realities:
 - Of Life & Death:
 - We Forget Our Place & His Position!
 - Because - The Power Of Death:
 - And - The Realities Of This Dying World:
 - Are So Strong!
 - They Can Turn Into:
 - A Crisis Of Faith:
 - Even For Those Who Do Believe!
 - And Yet - We Can Still Forget:
- The Power Of The Lord!
 - When Martha Reminded The Lord That:
 - Her Brother Had Already Been Dead:
 - For 4 Days - And By That Time:
 - Would Have Stunk!
 - Her Focus Was More On:
 - The Power Of Death - Than:
 - The Power Of Jesus!
 - From Our Perspective:
 - Death Is Powerful:
 - Because There's No Future:
 - In The Grave!
 - Only The Past! Only What's Been!
 - Death Is Powerful:
 - Because There's No Life:
 - In The Grave!
 - Only Death & Darkness & Corruption!
 - Death Is Powerful:
 - Because There Is No End:
 - To The Grave!
 - Because - The Door Is Shut!
 - But - In Spite Of All Of This:

- Jesus Still Said:
 - 11:39 - “Take Ye Away The Stone!”
- He Said This - Because:
 - From His Perspective:
 - Death & The Grave Have No Power At All!
- Which Is Why - In 11:40:
 - “Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”
 - More Than Likely - This Is Just Something Else That Jesus Told Martha At Their First Meeting!
 - And - It Was Just A Gentle Reminder To Believe In His Power & Glory!
- In Spite Of Martha’s Lapse Of Faith:
 - Jesus Still Spoke To Her:
 - With Grace & Tenderness:
 - In Her Grief!
 - And - He Often Does The Same To Us!
 - Because He Knows Our Frame!
 - As Dust!
 - Because He Knows Our Forgetfulness!
 - So Soon!
 - And - Because He Wants To:
 - Foster & Renew Our Faith:
 - In Him!
 - And - To This - Martha Must Have Responded:
 - In Faith - Because - In 11:41 - Jesus Has His Way:
 - “Then they took away the stone [from the place] where the dead was laid!”
- The Power Of Death:
 - Is Strong - And Can Often Bring:
 - The Cloud Of Doubt:
 - Into The Hearts Of Believers:
 - Like Martha!
 - And - The Realities Of Death:
 - Can Often Cause Us To Forget:
 - The Great Position & Power:
 - Of The Lord!
 - But - Praise God:
 - There Is Something:
 - Even Stronger Than:
 - The Power Of Death & Doubt! And That Is:

3. ***The Power Of The Deliverer!***

- The Lord Jesus Christ Himself!
 - And - The Power Of The Deliverer:
 - Is The Strongest Power Of All!
 - After All - Jesus Has:
- The Power To Overcome Doubt!
 - And - He Does This Through:
 - His Prayer To His Father:
 - In 11:41b-42 - “And Jesus lifted up [his] eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. / 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!”
 - Through This Prayer:
 - We Can See That Jesus Has The Power:
 - To Overcome Doubt!
 - Because - Through His Prayer:
 - Jesus Reveals His Connection:
 - To Heaven!
 - Even God The Father - Who Was:

- His Father - In A Special & Unique Sense!
- Jesus Reveals His Commission:
 - From Heaven!
 - That He Was Sent:
 - From The Father!
 - And - It Was All:
- To Convince Others:
 - To Believe!
 - To Overcome The Power Of Doubt:
 - And Bring Them To Faith In Him!
- Jesus Still Has This Kind Of Power!
 - To Deliver Us From:
 - The Power Of Doubt:
 - In Our Own Lives & Hearts!
- In Order To Save You:
 - It Is The Power Of Jesus' Call:
 - Through The Gospel:
 - That Can Break Through The Walls Of Your Doubt & Disbelief:
 - And Quicken Faith In Your Heart!
- But Also - It Is The Power Of Jesus' Word & Prayer:
 - That Will Strengthen:
 - Your Faith - Even When:
 - The Realities Of Life & Death:
 - Try To Strangle Your Trust In Him!
- The Power Of Doubt - May Be Strong!
 - But - The Power Of Jesus:
 - The Deliverer:
 - Is Stronger Still!
 - He Alone Has The Power:
 - To Overcome Your Doubt!
 - But Also - He Has:
- The Power To Overcome Death!
 - And - He Does This Through:
 - The Miracle - That We've Been Anticipating:
 - All Through This Chapter!
 - The Miracle That Takes Place:
 - In 11:43-44 - "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. / 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!"
 - And - With This - Jesus Proved:
 - Beyond A Shadow Of A Doubt:
 - What He Told Martha Back In 11:25!
 - That He Was & Is:
 - "The Resurrection & The Life!"
 - And - The Voice Jesus Used:
 - To Wake Up Lazarus From The Dead:
 - Was A Voice Of Might!
 - Even A "Loud Voice!"
 - Not That He Had To Speak This Way:
 - To Bring Life To The Dead!
 - But - He Did So:
 - For Effect!
 - To Effect Those:
 - Who Heard Him! Even Us!
 - The Voice Of Jesus:
 - Is A Voice Of Might - That:
 - Can Overcome Death Itself!
- Also - The Voice Of Jesus:

- Was A Voice Of Majesty!
 - It Was An Urgent Cry!
 - Even Like A Battle Cry!
- To Show That:
 - Death Had Met Its Match:
 - With Him! And:
 - He Would Have His Way, No Matter What!
- The Voice Of Jesus:
 - Is A Voice Of Majesty - Because:
 - He Is The Lord Of All!
 - Even Death!
- And - The Voice Of Jesus:
 - Was The Voice Of Mercy!
 - Even Though His Command Was Directed To His Friend & Follower:
 - Lazarus!
 - His Resurrection:
 - Would Have Brought Comfort & Relief To His Sisters - And:
 - To Many Others Who Were Witnesses!
 - All To Show That:
 - Jesus Has The Power:
 - Over The Darkness:
 - Of The Tomb!
 - Over The Decay:
 - Of Death! And Even:
 - Over The Division:
 - Of Soul & Body!
 - And - The Voice Of Jesus:
 - Is Still A Voice Of Mercy:
 - To Those He Knows By Name!
 - Because - This Is What:
 - He Has In Store For You One Day - Even When:
 - You Die!
- If You Have Faith In & Are A Follower Of:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Savior From Sin:
 - One Day - You Too Will Hear:
 - The Voice Of Jesus!
 - The Mighty & Majestic & Merciful:
 - Voice Of Jesus!
 - And Death Itself:
 - Will Lose Its Grip Over Your Body!
 - So That - In Your Own Flesh:
 - You Will See God! (Job)
- The Power Of Death - May Be Strong!
 - But - The Power Of Jesus:
 - To Deliver You From Death:
 - Is Stronger Still!
- But - I Think We Can See:
 - From This Miracle That:
 - The Resurrection That:
 - Is In Store For You - As A Christian:
 - Is Still Different & Better:
 - Than The Resurrection Of Lazarus!
 - Because - Even Though:
 - Lazarus Was Given Life:
 - From Death!
 - 11:44 - When - "He That Was Dead Came Forth!"
 - He Was Still:

- "Bound!"
 - He Was Still:
 - "Bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin!"
 - He Was Still Bound:
 - With The Clothes Of The Grave!
 - You See - Lazarus Was Not Yet:
 - As Alive As He Could Have Been - And:
 - One Day Will Be!
 - Though Resurrected, He Was Still Restricted!
 - In This Life & In His Body Of Sin!
 - But - What Was It Like:
 - When Jesus Rose From The Dead?
 - 20:5-7 - "And he stooping down, [and looking in], saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. / Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, / And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself!"
 - This Is What Is In Store For Those Who Are:
 - "Dead In Christ!"
 - And So - Trust In The Power Of Jesus, Your Deliverer!
 - Because His Power Is Stronger
- Than
The
Power
Of
Doubt &
Death
Itself!

Conclusion:

1. And Yet - It Is His Power:
 - That Will Often Bring About:
 - Division - Which Is Powerful:
 - In Its Own Right!
 - Which Is What We See:
 - In The Aftermath Of This Miracle:
 - In 11:45-46 - "Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. / But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done!"
2. Though Many Were:
 - Convinced Of Jesus' Power:
 - And Believed In Him!
 - Others Were Concerned:
 - And Remained Suspicious Of His Power:
 - And So - Returned To Jerusalem:
 - To Tell The Pharisees:
 - Who Would Become Even More Disturbed & Threatened By Jesus!
3. This Is What:
 - The Power Of Jesus The Deliverer:
 - Continues To Do:
 - In This World Of Doubt & Death!
 - It Will Bring Division!
 - Even - A Distinction:
 - Between Faith In Christ:
 - And Faithlessness!
 - Between Confidence In Christ:
 - And Cynicism!
 - Between The Friends Of Christ:
 - And His Foes!

4. On Which Side Of This Divide:
- Are You?
- The Power Of Doubt & Death:
 - Wants To Keep You On:
 - Their Side!
 - And - Even For Martha:
 - They Seemed To Prevail:
 - For A Time!
 - But - Remember:
 - The Power Of Jesus Is Stronger Than:
 - The Power Of Doubt & Death!
 - Because He Is The Resurrection & The Life! And - Because:
 - He Is Your Deliverer:
 - In Whom You Can Trust!