

Sermon Title: **"REMOVING ANXIETY & FEAR IN OUR LIFE!"**

Sermon Text: **John 11: 1-46**

***Introduction:***

**GOOD MORNING TO ALL FBC MEMBERS & ATTENDERS! THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TO OUR FIRST EVER LIVE STREAM OF OUR WORSHIP SERVICE! I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME EVERYONE WHO ARE JOINING FBC FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY. WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY UP TO WHEN WE ARE GOING TO LIVE STREAM OUR SUNDAY SERVICE. BUT FOR THE MEAN TIME, WE WILL BE BRINGING TO YOU GOD'S WORD & OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION VIA LIVE STREAM. LET US NOW PREPARE OUR HEARTS AS CALL BRO. PAUL & TEAM AS WORSHIP TOGETHER THE LORD OUR GOD!**

**TODAY, WE ARE GOING START A NEW SERMON SERIES ENTITLED "COMBATting COVID-19!" (OVERCOMING THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE TIMES!). I THINK OUR TEXT & STORY TODAY IS VERY MUCH RELEVANT TO WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AROUND US HERE IN OUR COUNTRY NOWADAYS & AROUND THE WORLD. THE COVID-19 VIRUS HAS CREATED SO MUCH DISRUPTION IN OUR LIFE THAT MANY OF US ARE ANXIOUS & FEARFUL OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US IN THE DAYS TO COME. PRAISE THE LORD WE HAVE GOD'S WORD TO COMFORT & ENCOURAGE US DURING THESE TIMES!**

**NOW, MANY HERE IN OUR COUNTRY & EVEN OUR CITY ARE PANIC BUYING THAT CERTAIN GROCERY ITEMS ARE NOW HARD TO FIND. RICE, TOILET PAPERS, HAND SANITIZERS ARE SOME OF THESE ITEMS THAT ARE NOW DIFFICULT TO FIND. AS COMMENTED BY ONE PASTOR, THE VIRUS OF FEAR HAS SPREAD FASTER THAN THE COVID-19 VIRUS ITSELF!**

**BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT WE ARE NOT REALLY AFRAID OF THE CORONA VIRUS ITSELF BUT WE ARE AFRAID OF WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IF WE CONTRACT THE VIRUS. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS THE PROSPECT OF DYING WHICH IS TRULY MAKING PEOPLE ANXIOUS & FEARFUL NOWADAYS. THE TRUTH IS WE ARE AFRAID TO DIE! AND RELATED TO THIS FEAR OF DEATH IS THE**

**FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN! WE DO NOT EXACTLY KNOW WHAT LIES AHEAD AFTER DEATH, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW THE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE OR GOD'S WORD ON THE MATTER!**

**TODAY, I HOPE & PRAY THAT AT THE END OF OUR STUDY, WE WILL HAVE THE ASSURANCE AS TO WHERE WE WILL SPEND OUR ETERNITY & FROM OUR APPLICATIONS RECEIVE BIBLICAL & PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES HOW TO CONFRONT & OVERCOME NOT ONLY THE FEAR OF DEATH BUT THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE TIME WE LIVE IN! **LET US PRAY!!!****

**A. JESUS **RECEIVES** NEWS THAT LAZARUS IS SICK!**

**1) Lazarus' sisters **deliver** the sad news to the Lord Jesus!**

**OUR STORY TODAY BEGINS WITH THE LORD JESUS RECEIVING NEWS FROM LAZARUS' SISTERS, MARY & MARTHA, THAT THEIR BROTHER IS SICK. OUR TEXT SAYS THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE BELIEVERS OF THE LORD JESUS. MARY, BEING THE ONE WHO ANOINTED JESUS WITH EXPENSIVE PERFUME & WIPE IT WITH HER HAIR (SEE LK. 7:36ffg).**

***“Now a man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. **So the sisters sent a message to him: “Lord, the one you love is sick.”***** (vv. 1-3)

**2) The Lord Jesus **delays** his going to Bethany to see Lazarus!**

***When Jesus heard it, he said, “This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. **So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was.***** (vv. 4-6)

**NOTE THAT THE LORD JESUS ALREADY KNOWS & PREDICTED THAT LAZARUS WILL NOT DIE. AND SO, THIS WAS THE REASON**

WHY HE **DELIBERATELY DELAYED & WAITED FOR TWO MORE DAYS** BEFORE DECIDING TO GO TO JUDEA AND SEE LAZARUS.

B. JESUS **RETURNS** TO JUDEA IN BETHANY TO SEE LAZARUS!

IN VERSE 7, WE SEE THE LORD TELLING HIS DISCIPLES THAT THEY ARE RETURNING TO JUDEA BUT HIS DISCIPLES WERE AGAINST THE IDEA!

1) *Jesus' disciples **discourage** Him to return to Bethany!*

*Then after that, he said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again." "Rabbi," the disciples told him, "just now the Jews tried to stone you, and you're going there again?" "Aren't there twelve hours in a day?" Jesus answered. "If anyone walks during the day, he doesn't stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him." (vv. 7-10)*

TAKE NOTE THAT THE LORD'S DISCIPLES TRIED TO DISCOURAGE HIM FROM RETURNING TO JUDEA BECAUSE OF THE DANGER. BUT HE PREVAILED OVER THEM BY EXPLAINING TO THEM THAT LAZARUS IS DEAD!

2) *Jesus **declares** to His disciples that Lazarus is dead!*

*"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I'm on my way to wake him up." Then the disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well." **Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but they thought he was speaking about natural sleep. So Jesus then told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. I'm glad for you that I wasn't there so that you may believe. But let's go to him."** Then Thomas (called "Twin") said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go too so that we may die with him."*

IN VERSES 11-16, THE LORD JESUS TELLS HIS DISCIPLES THAT LAZARUS, HIS FRIEND & THEIR FRIEND, IS ALREADY DEAD! AT FIRST, THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND BUT LATER THE LORD PLAINLY TELLS THEM THAT HE IS NOW DEAD!

### C. JESUS **RAISES** HIS FRIEND, LAZARUS, FROM THE DEAD!

**NOW, WHEN THE LORD ARRIVED IN BETHANY, LAZARUS WAS ALREADY DEAD FOR FOUR DAYS & IS NOW BURIED IN A CAVE. IN FACT, HIS RELATIVES & FRIENDS FROM JERUSALEM & OTHER PLACES WERE ALREADY THERE TO COMFORT THE FAMILY.**

1) Jesus **comforts** Lazarus' sisters by telling them *WHO He is & WHAT HE can do!*

WHEN THE SISTERS, MARY & MARTHA, SAW THE LORD JESUS SEPARATELY, THEY BOTH TOLD HIM THAT "IF YOU HAVE BEEN HERE, MY BROTHER WOULDN'T HAVE DIED!"

*"As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Then Martha said to Jesus, **"Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."**"*  
(vv. 20-21)

*As soon as Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, **"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!"**"* (v. 32)

THE LORD COMFORTS THEM BY DECLARING TO MARTHA THAT LAZARUS WILL LIVE AGAIN. THIS WAS ACTUALLY THE REASON HE DELAYED HIS COMING TO SEE LAZARUS- SO THAT THEY WILL SEE HIS GLORY IN RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD!

*When Jesus heard it, he said, **"This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."**"* (v. 4)

BUT MARTHA THOUGHT THAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AT THE JUDGMENT DAY AS SHOWN BY REV. 20 (SEE VERSE 24!). IN ANY CASE, THE LORD JESUS DECLARES TO HER THAT HE IS THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE!

*Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die..."**"* (vv. 25-26)

## 2) Jesus **cries** with Lazarus' sisters & the people!

WHEN THE LORD JESUS SAW THE GRIEF OF MARY & MARTHA & THE GRIEF OF ALL THOSE WHO WERE WITH HER, THE LORD WAS DEEPLY MOVED BY IT! HIS HEART WAS BROKEN & HE WEPT! ANOTHER CLEAR PROOF THAT HE IS INDEED OUR PERFECT & FAITHFUL SAVIOR WHO CAN RELATE WITH US.

**When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled.** “Where have you put him?” he asked. “Lord,” they told him, “come and see.” **Jesus wept.** (vv. 33-34)

## 3) Jesus **commands** Lazarus to come out of the tomb!

AFTER THIS, THE LORD COMMANDED THE STONE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE FACE OF THE CAVE & THEN HE CALLED ON LAZARUS TO COME OUT OF THE TOMB & HE DID!

*So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you heard me. I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me.” **After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”** The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unwrap him and let him go.”* (vv. 41-44)

## **APPLICATIONS:**

THEREFORE, HOW DO WE REMOVE ANXIETY & FEAR IN OUR LIFE?

- **WE REMOVE** ANXIETY & FEAR IN YOUR LIFE BY BEING **100% SURE** OF YOUR SALVATION!

**THE STORY OF LAZARUS CLEARLY TEACHES US THAT THERE IS LIFE AFTER DEATH & THAT A PERSON CAN KNOW WHERE HE IS GOING TO SPEND HIS ETERNITY – WITH THE LORD OR TOTALLY SEPARATED FROM HIM! AGAIN, OUR TRUE PROBLEM OR FEAR IS**

**NOT COVID-19 BUT DEATH! WE ARE ANXIOUS & AFRAID TO DIE & LEAVE THIS EARTH!**

**LAZARUS' STORY TEACHES US NOT TO FEAR DEATH & WHAT LIES AFTER IT BECAUSE THE DEVIL WHO HOLDS THE POWER OF DEATH HAD BEEN CONQUERED BY THE LORD JESUS AT THE CROSS AND THAT THROUGH HIS DEATH & RESURRECTION, HE HAS GRANTED FORGIVENESS & ETERNAL LIFE TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM! THEREFORE, INSTEAD OF DEATH, WE ARE TO FEAR THE LORD JESUS BECAUSE HE HAS THE POWER TO DESTROY NOT ONLY OUR BODY BUT ALSO OUR SOUL IN HELL.**

***“Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through his death he might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death.”***

***(Hebrews 2: 14-15)***

**❖ IN BECOMING HUMAN, JESUS KNEW THE POWER OF DEATH IN THE LIVES OF MEN!**

***When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled. “Where have you put him?” he asked. “Lord,” they told him, “come and see.” Jesus wept.***  
***(vv. 33-25)***

- a. IT SHOWS US A GLIMPSE OF THE FATHER'S COMPASSION FOR HIS SUFFERING CHILDREN!**
- b. IT SHOWS US THE LORD'S ANGER & HATRED FOR DEATH! HE SHED TEARS OF SORROW AS WELL AS TEARS OF ANGER FOR SIN & DEATH!**
- c. IT SHOWS THE LORD'S GRIEF & DISTRESS FOR HIS COMING DEATH!**

***And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it***



to the cross. **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.**" (Col. 2: 13-15)

When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He laid his right hand on me and said, **"Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades."** (Rev. 1: 17-18)

**"Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."** (Matt. 10:28)

**"For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."** (John 3:16)

❖ **NOW, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE DEAD SURE OF YOUR SALVATION?**

**(1) OUR HEAVENLY FATHER HAS GIVEN YOU ETERNAL LIFE!**

**"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.** The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5: 11,12)

**Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.** Do you believe this?" (John 11:25, 26)

**IN OTHER WORDS, DO NOT FEAR COVID-19 NOR DEATH BUT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! COVID-19 CAN ONLY KILL YOUR BODY BUT NOT YOUR SOUL. BUT THE LORD JESUS CAN DESTROY YOUR BODY & YOUR SOUL IN THE LAKE OF FIRE! OR HE CAN GIVE YOU ETERNAL LIFE!**

**(2) OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS TAKING CARE OF YOU!**

**THE LORD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING IN OUR LIFE (SEE VERSE 4!). LET US LIVE OUR LIFE IN THIS WORLD NOT IN FEAR BUT**

**FULLY TRUSTING** OUR HEAVENLY FATHER BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT HE SOVEREIGNLY **TAKING CARE** OF US.

AMIDST THE CORONA VIRUS RAMPAGE, WE KNOW THAT **NOTHING** ESCAPE THE LORD'S NOTICE & **NOTHING** TOUCHES OUR LIFE WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE & PERMISSION. WE ARE TO **BELIEVE/TRUST** THAT HE IS MYSTERIOUSLY & POWERFULLY WORKING FOR OUR **TEMPORAL & ETERNAL** GOOD!

Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:28-30)

❖ **THEREFORE, LET US BELIEVE/ TRUST THAT THE LORD IS MYSTERIOUSLY & POWERFULLY WORKING FOR OUR TEMPORAL & ETERNAL GOOD!**

"We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28)

(3) OUR HEAVENLY **LOVES** YOU!

**TAKE NOTE HOW MANY TIMES THE WORD "LOVE/AGAPE" WAS USED IN OUR TEXT BETWEEN THE JESUS & HIS DISCIPLES? THREE TIMES! IN VERSE 3, AS OBSERVED BY THE SISTERS. IN VERSE 5 AS OBSERVED BY JOHN, THE GOSPEL WRITER. AND IN VERSE 36 AS OBSERVED BY THE PEOPLE AT THAT TIME!**

So the sisters sent a message to him: "Lord, the one you love is sick." (v. 3)

Now Jesus **loved** Martha, her sister, and Lazarus." (v. 5)  
So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" (v. 36)

**IF YOU HAVE BELIEVED IN JESUS & TRUSTED HIM AS SAVIOR & LORD, THEN LIKE LAZARUS, HIS SISTERS, & ALL HIS DISCIPLES, THE LORD JESUS LOVES YOU!**



**AND IF YOU ARE LOVED BY JESUS, YOU ARE ALSO LOVED BY THE FATHER & THE HOLY SPIRIT, & NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM THIS LOVE!**

**Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Can covid-19? ... For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

**(Romans 8: 31-39)**