

**“Living A Resurrected Life”**  
**(John 12:1-9, 11)**  
**April 23, 2017**

**INTRODUCTION:**

- Gathering at the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus
  - Dinner given to honor the Lord, celebrating Lazarus’ resurrection
  - Scene is a PROPHETIC PICTURE for us for every gathering of saints
  - It’s the church’s Spirit-inspired SELFIE!
- OUR MODEL:
  - Contains FIVE COMPONENTS reflecting QUALITIES or CONDITIONS that MUST BE PRESENT in our coming together, and our LIFESTYLES
  - These QUALITIES must be present in us as a GROUP as well as INDIVIDUALS
  - ***“Living A Resurrected Life”***

**I. THE PRESENCE OF JESUS:**

Matthew 18:20 (NLT)

For where two or more gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

- The ENTIRE REASON for the gathering was to HONOR JESUS
- His PRESENCE was the SOLE PURPOSE for gathering
  - It wasn’t the COOKING, the FANCY HOUSE, or the GUESTS in attendance
  - ***IT WAS ALL ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF JESUS!***

**NOTE:**

**IN THIS CONSUMER-DRIVEN CULTURE OF OURS WHERE WE’RE TOLD THAT ‘PEOPLE SHOP FOR CHURCHES TO ATTEND’, THE LAST CRITERIA, OR QUESTION ON THE LIST IS, *IS THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST THERE?***

**HIS PRESENCE:**

- Turns houses into HALLOWED SANCTUARIES
- Turns mud huts into HOLY TEMPLES
- Turns barns into BASILLICAS

**NOTE:**

**PLAY-GYMS, PAINT COLORS, CARPETING AND FACILITIES ARE WONDERFUL, AND SHOULD BE THE BEST POSSIBLE, *BUT THEY ARE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE ONE AND ONLY, LIFE-GIVING, PRESENCE OF THE PRINCE OF LIFE! ALL THE OTHER “STUFF” IS JUST BAIT USED TO CATCH MEN!***

- “THE REAL JESUS OF NAZARETH” is not found on the AMC Cable TV channel
- It’s found in the midst of a people who gather in His Name to Honor and Glorify Him and Him alone!
- HIS PRESENCE and POWER is responsible for the fact that LAZARUS IS ALIVE!
- IT’S THE SOLE REASON AND PURPOSE OF OUR COMING TOGETHER!

## II. A TRUE, SERVANT’S HEART:

- Martha, *SERVED*:
- **KEY: we must be *other-oriented***

Mark 10:45 (NLT)

For even the Son of Man came *not to be served* but *to serve others* and to *give his life as a ransom* for many.”

- She was there TO SERVE THOSE WHO ATTENDED, not herself
- Her FOCUS was that OTHERS received what they came for
- She was there as a “ransom” for them

Ransom: (definition)

*An act of paying a price for someone else’s FREEDOM!*

NOTE:

THE JEWS HAD ALREADY ISSUED A DECREE THAT ANYONE WHO KNEW WHERE JESUS WAS SHOULD REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY! MARY, MARTHA AND LAZARUS PUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR REPUTATIONS AT RISK FOR THE BENEFIT OF JESUS AND OTHERS!

John 11:57 (NLT)

Meanwhile, the leading priests and Pharisees had publicly ordered that anyone seeing Jesus must report it immediately so they could arrest him.

QUESTION:

IF IT WAS ILLEGAL TO GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP JESUS, WOULD WE TAKE THE RISK AND DO SO?

*IN OTHER NATIONS, MANY PEOPLE DO SO. IN THE UNITED STATES WE HAVE A PROBLEM GATHERING NOT BECAUSE IT’S ILLEGAL, BUT BECAUSE IT’S JUST INCONVENIENT!*

- Mary and her family GATHERED to HONOR JESUS and TO SERVE OTHERS, *at the risk of their own comfort and expense*

- *This is true Christlikeness!*

### III. JUDAS: THE SELF-SERVING, RELIGIOUS CRITIC:

- Judas was AN INVITED GUEST and A DISCIPLE
- He CAME TO EAT with everyone else
- When he observed MARY'S ACT OF WORSHIP, *he criticized her!*

#### NOTE:

- He was INVITED like everyone else
- He was RECLINING at the meal with Lazarus and the other disciples
- He was ENJOYING EVERYTHING HE WAS GETTING
- **HIS CRITICAL SPIRIT WAS REVEALED REGARDING AN OVERT ACT OF WORSHIP**

#### WHY?

- **HE WAS A THIEF!**
  - A Thief is only interested in WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
  - The OPPOSITE ATTITUDE of Martha
  - It was all about HIM and WHAT'S IN IT FOR HIM!
- **A SELF-SERVING CRITIC DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE POOR (GIVING) HE CARES ABOUT GETTING!**
- **JUDAS THREW MARY UNDER THE BUS BECAUSE HE WASN'T GETTING ANYTHING FROM HER WORSHIP; WHICH HE CONSIDERED *EXCESSIVE***

#### NOTE:

**A SELF-SERVING PERSON WITH A CRITICAL SPIRIT WHO THROWS THE "MARY'S" UNDER THE BUS TODAY, WILL EVENTUALLY THROW THE LEADERSHIP UNDER THE BUS TOMORROW... IF THE DEVIL GIVES A PERSON LIKE THIS ENOUGH ROPE, EVENTUALLY... THEY SELF-DESTRUCT!**

### IV. TRUE WORSHIPERS: MARY

- She poured out what amounted to a year's work/wages on Jesus
  - Represented the TIME, spent upon earning it
  - Represented the TREASURE it represented that PALED in the PRESENCE of the TRUE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE
  - She had FOUND THE TREASURE hidden in a field AND USED EVERYTHING ELSE SHE HAD TO BUY IT
- ***THE LORD IS SEEKING WORSHIPPERS OF THIS CALIBER TODAY!***

#### NOTE:

**OUR WORSHIP OF JESUS IS AN EXPRESSIVE REPRESENTATION OF OUR ENTIRE LIVES "POURED OUT" FOR HIM WHO HAS GIVEN US LIFE! SHE RECOGNIZED**

THAT HE WAS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE; AND SHE SPARED NO EXPENSE TO EXPRESS HER LOVE TO HIM!  
THIS IS TRUE, UNRESTRAINED WORSHIP LAVISHED UPON THE LOVER OF OUR SOULS!

A 'POURED-OUT' LIFE OF WORSHIP IS A SWEET SMELLING FRAGRANCE TO THE LORD, THAT SHOULD FILL EVERY HOUSE WHERE HE IS PRESENT!

#### V. LAZARUS: LIVING A RESURRECTED LIFE

- Twice described as "*the man Jesus raised from the dead*" in the passage
- They came to see JESUS, BUT THEY ALSO CAME TO SEE LAZARUS

WHY?

- He didn't TEACH, PREACH, OR TESTIFY
- He didn't DESCRIBE what he heard or saw in his experience in returning to life

NOTE:

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN RAISED TO LIFE BY JESUS, THE FACT THAT YOU'RE ALIVE TELLS THE STORY; YOUR LIFE IS THE MESSAGE; YOUR LIFE IS THE "SERMON" AND "LIVING EPISTLE" FROM THE LORD THAT THE WHOLE WORLD "READS"!

ALL WHO ARE BORN FROM ABOVE ARE "LAZARUSES":

- We were DEAD in our trespasses and sins
- We were BURIED with Christ in Baptism
- We were RAISED TO NEW LIFE IN HIM

#### **Colossians 3:1-4 (NLT)**

Living the New Life

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ (**Resurrection**), set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits (**We're seated with him**) in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life (**the life which I now live by the faith of the Son of God**) is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

#### SUMMARY: (v11)

- "...it was BECAUSE OF HIM that many believed

NOTE:

- It was BECAUSE they witnessed someone ALIVE FROM THE DEAD

- They LEFT THEIR TRADITIONS and followed
- They became believers, NOT BECAUSE OF JESUS (they understood he was Messiah and responsible for Lazarus' experience)
- BECAUSE OF SOMEONE ***THEY COULD IDENTIFY WITH was living a new life!***

### Romans 6:13 (AMP)

Do not go on offering members of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness. But offer yourselves to God [in a decisive act] as those alive [raised] from the dead [to a new life], and your members [***all of your abilities—sanctified, set apart***] as instruments of righteousness [yielded] to God.

- There is nothing more CONVINCING than seeing a RESURRECTED LIFE!
  - DIFFERENT PRIORITIES AND VALUES
  - DIFFERENT TASTES, PREFERENCES, ATTITUDES,
  - LIFE IS "NARROWED" DOWN TO WHAT REALLY MATTERS!
  - NOTHING IS MORE INVITING OR CONVINCING THAN A RESURRECTED LIFE!
  - START LIVING YOURS TODAY!