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Sermon Notes

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Christ is the Resurrection and the Life

John 11:25-26

In 1839 two courageous missionaries from London made a bold attempt to evangelize the natives of the New Hebrides Islands in the South Pacific. Shockingly, the two men were attacked, murdered, and cannibalized just a few minutes after going ashore in full view of the ship that had deposited them there.

Nineteen years later, a Scottish minister of the gospel named John Paton decided to go to those islands with his wife to seek to bring these violent and terrifying people to salvation in Christ. An elder in his church named Mr. Dickson strongly rebuked him for his commitment, crying aloud: **“You will be eaten by cannibals!”**

To this, John Paton replied:

“Mr. Dickson, you are advanced in years now, and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms; I confess to you, that if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by cannibals or by worms; and in the Great Day my Resurrection body will rise as fair as yours in the likeness of our risen Redeemer.”

WHAT AN ANSWER!! WHAT FAITH!!! WHAT COURAGE!!! What a clear perspective based on the Easter message of our resurrection based on Jesus Christ’s triumph over the grave!

I want to begin this Easter Sermon with two questions based on what John Paton said...

First: Do you all realize that it is appointed to each of us to die once and after that to face judgment?

Second: Do you believe that through faith in Christ your body will rise glorious from the grave on the Last Day?

What this means is, if the Lord doesn't return in our lifetime, every single one of us will die – our hearts will stop beating, our lungs will stop filling with air, our brainwaves will cease. I don't know how or when, but it will happen to each of us. It could be suddenly, like a car accident or a drowning; it could be expected, after a long illness. It could come when we are relatively young, or when we are very old. But it will come, if the Lord doesn't return first... and then, your body will decompose and most likely be eaten by worms.

Do you ever think about this? Does it cross your mind? Or do you try to remove the thought of death as far from you as possible?

And as you face the inevitability of your own death, have you found comfort in the unshakable truth that Christ came to give you a resurrection from the grave like his?

Easter Sunday is a time of joyful celebration all around the world... celebrating Christ's triumph over the grave!

We Christians believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb... We believe Jesus literally died... he was literally buried... he was literally raised from the dead on the third day

1 Corinthians 15:17 if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

This morning, we are going to walk through John 11, the amazing account of Jesus' resurrection of his friend Lazarus from the dead four days after the man had died.

We're going to feel the marvelous weight of this statement:

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

I. The Surprising Purpose of Jesus (vs. 1-16)

A. The Basic Framework for the Story: Jesus' Friendship with this Family

1. Jesus' relationship with this family is the context of this marvelous miracle
2. He raised Lazarus from the dead because he loved them and wanted to bless them personally
3. But the account begins with a very surprising purpose of Jesus
4. It says that he actually lingered where he was extra days to allow Lazarus's illness to work its normal course and bring Lazarus's life to an end...
5. He did this ON PURPOSE because he loved Lazarus, and Lazarus's sisters, Martha, and Mary

John 11:1-4 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." ⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

By this time, Jesus had done a river of miracles all over Palestine... his reputation as an astonishing healer of all diseases was well established. There was no sickness he could not heal, no case too difficult

Also by this time, Jesus had met this family in Bethany (a little town very near Jerusalem)... The sisters, Martha and Mary, were obviously very familiar with Jesus, and said to Jesus concerning Lazarus "Lord, the ONE YOU LOVE is sick."

Jesus proclaims that Lazarus's sickness will NOT END IN DEATH... that is not the final end of this sickness...

Obviously such a statement could easily be misunderstood, but it is the key to everything – though we WILL GO THROUGH DEATH, we will not END in death... rather, Lazarus's sickness, like all the sufferings of God's children, are for God's glory... to put God's Son on display

John 11:5-6 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ SO when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

The link between verse 5 and 6: Jesus stayed the extra days intentionally out of love for them AND FOR US... at the end of this account, Jesus will have so clearly displayed his irresistible power over death

APPLICATION: God will sometimes specifically orchestrate incredibly painful trials in our lives to strengthen our faith and put his own glory on display... you will be tempted to question his love, as Martha and Mary will in the account... but understand that God only means good for us

B. Jesus Draws the Disciples Into His Plans

1. Jesus' ways are often difficult to follow... so he has to explain his plans to his disciples:

John 11:7-10 Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." ⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light."

2. Jesus is courageous... for the disciples, especially Thomas, are very clear that Jesus has enemies in Judea, and especially in Jerusalem, that are ready to take his life
3. But Jesus understands that everything is MEASURED OUT CAREFULLY by his wise heavenly Father... every hour of his life has been planned

Vs. 9-10 "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light."

Application: Jesus' attitude is a timeless challenge to all of his followers to take the same approach to life... every moment of every day is allotted to us to WORK THE WORKS that God has appointed for us to do

If we are selfish and live for our own agendas, it's as though we are blind, walking in the dark

C. Lazarus is Only Asleep

John 11:11-16 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." ¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

1. Jesus' way of speaking about death is stunning... SLEEP
2. To Jesus, given his irresistible power over death, raising a dead person is no more difficult than rousing a sleeping person
3. But his disciples do not understand his figure of speech... so Jesus must tell them plainly... LAZARUS IS DEAD
 - a. Jesus knows the difference!!

- b. FOR HIM, it is as easy to raise a dead person as to rouse a sleeping person
 - c. But FOR US, there is a **massive** difference
 - d. When we come up to a loved one lying in a bed with his eyes closed, we feel confident that all we need do is shake him on the shoulder, touch his forehead, speak gently to him and he will open his eyes
 - e. But what if we touch his face and it feels cold... we notice his chest is not rising and falling with his breath... suddenly, a shock comes over us... adrenaline shoots through our bodies, we start to breathe fast... we shake him more vigorously and perhaps open his eyes... but the soul is gone
 - f. Then we begin to SCREAM IN AGONY... for we know the difference between sleep and death
 - g. This loved one will never rise out of his bed again... we will never see his smile or hear his voice again in this world
4. Jesus tells them plainly... LAZARUS IS DEAD
 5. Now comes the shock: AND FOR YOUR SAKES, **I AM GLAD I WAS NOT THERE, SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE!!**"
 6. The gladness of Jesus here is a mystery... what cause is there for gladness?
 7. But here, we have the GLADNESS of Jesus... a FORETASTE of the eternal joy we will experience

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Now, however, it is TIME TO WORK... only by the power of Christ can our wailing be turned into dancing

John 11:15 let us go to him.

II. The Stunning Promise of Jesus (vs. 17-27)

A. When Jesus Arrives... He Walks into a Sea of Sorrow

John 11:17-19 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

1. Lazarus has been dead FOUR DAYS... this is not like a CPR resuscitation; mouth to mouth; pressing on the chest twenty times; suddenly he coughs and opens his eyes
2. No, this man is dead... and by this time decay will have set in, as Martha points out in verse 39
3. The key for us... it is no more difficult for Jesus to raise someone who has been dead four days or four years or four centuries...
4. Nothing is impossible for him!
5. Also the four days allows a huge crowd of mourners to arrive from Jerusalem
6. This miracle will not be done in a corner, but in front of a huge audience, and this audience is swimming in grief, for Lazarus was well-loved
7. But the deepest, coldest waters of grief into which Jesus will wade is the silent accusation of wrongdoing that is consuming both Martha and Mary
8. They sent word to Jesus in time, they expected him to come earlier, and now... IT'S TOO LATE!... And they don't understand why.

B. Martha's Unspoken Question

John 11:20-22 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

1. Martha gets up and comes immediately

2. Mary stays inside... it seems too wrapped up in her grief to be with Jesus
3. They are both wrestling with the same deep question, with the same wound... not only have they lost their brother, they have lost something in their relationship with Christ
4. Deep disappointment... BOTH begin their encounter with Jesus with the SAME STATEMENT... that is really a QUESTION:

John 11:21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

- a. "WHY DIDN'T YOU COME? Don't you love us? Don't you care that we are swimming in sorrow now?"
- b. This is the mystery of PROVIDENCE, of the complex plans that the Lord has for us
- c. God is perfectly GOOD and only means GOOD for his people

Jeremiah 29:11 I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

- d. Both Martha and Mary still believe that Jesus is LORD and that he could have healed Lazarus

Vs. 22 "But I know that even now, God will give you whatever you ask!"

- e. However, they are both still UNDERESTIMATING JESUS and his power and love and wisdom
- f. Only by seeing what he will do will they more fully understand who he is, how great is his power over sin, suffering, and death

5. Jesus' first promise to Martha

John 11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Jesus is promising that she will see Lazarus alive again... this sickness will truly not end in death

But he will teach her far more than that... and all of us

C. Martha's Faith-filled Confession

John 11:24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

1. She has learned her Bible lessons well

Isaiah 26:19 But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

2. Even better, she learned this from Jesus Christ himself

John 6:39-40 This is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

3. So Martha had internalized this lesson... there will be a resurrection of the dead on the last day
4. BUT that knowledge was bringing her no joy at that moment... the doctrine was like some concept rolled up and packed away in her doctrinal brain; her brother is dead NOW and she would never again look on his face in the land of the living... and worse, she has a seed of doubt about Jesus himself: do you really love me?
5. From Christ's perspective, it is not acceptable to believe in the resurrection of the dead and not completely trust in HIM
6. So he must marry the two of them together completely in her mind

D. The Amazing Assertion of Jesus

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.

1. This is the single greatest assertion and promise ever made to our sinful and dying race concerning death and the resurrection
2. This promise should shine in your heart by faith and drive away the shadows of the tomb, the terrors of the night... the fear of death

3. The assertion is a claim only God can make... like the other “I am” statements in this Gospel of John
 - a. I am the bread of life... I am the living water... I am the way to heaven... I am the truth... I am the life
 - b. Jesus does not merely teach the resurrection from the dead; he does not merely bring about the resurrection from the dead
 - c. HE IS the resurrection, as well as the eternal life that will follow
 - d. The total IDENTITY of Jesus with the resurrection is essential, though we can never fully understand it... it’s a beginning to say “APART FROM ME, there IS NO resurrection from the dead” But that’s only the beginning of understanding “I AM the resurrection”
 - e. I am the essence, the distilled perfection of resurrection... I am the opposite of death; everything that I am, death is the opposite, as darkness is the opposite of light
 - f. Life flows through me, everything alive on planet earth has its life force, its vitality through me; every plant lives by photosynthesis in me; every animal that breathes the breath of life in its nostrils does so in me

John 1:3-4 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life

- g. It’s hard for us to fathom how much Jesus HATES death... how much of an ENEMY death is... resurrection is the death of death forever; and Jesus IS that resurrection

E. The Stunning Promise of Jesus based on his assertion

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

- 1. If you believe that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God... if you believe that he is God in the flesh... if you trust in his saving work on the cross, you will live forever in resurrection, even though you first die physically**

2. This is the celebration of Easter... not merely that this amazing man, Jesus, did an amazing thing—rose from the dead; but that WE DYING RACE OF HUMANS can share in that resurrection victory!!

John 14:19 Because I live, you also will live.

3. Beyond that, Jesus says if you believe in him, you will NEVER DIE
 - a. The only way to understand this is to comprehend what the New Testament calls “the second death”... eternity in hell
 - b. Lazarus was dead while Jesus spoke these words
 - c. The first part of this statement acknowledged that physical death may come upon us even if we believe in Jesus
 - d. But there is a SECOND DEATH that we will never experience if we believe in Jesus Christ

Revelation 20:14 The lake of fire is the second death.

4. The SECOND DEATH of hell is the penalty we all deserve for our sins

Matthew 25:41 "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

5. If we simply trust in Jesus, we will never experience the wrath and curse and torment and eternality of death in the Lake of Fire

F. Jesus' searching question to Martha

John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

1. Jesus makes all of us answer this question
2. DO YOU BELIEVE IN ME??? I will ask this once more at the end of this message
3. Martha without hesitation answers and declares her faith

John 11:27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Friends, this is the centerpiece of this Easter celebration, of the Easter hope... facing the historical reality of Jesus Christ's death on the cross for our sins, and his bodily resurrection from the grave on the third day... and finding our eternal life in our faith in him

But now we need to drive away any lingering doubts we may have about Jesus Christ with the rest of the account

To embrace his love and compassion for us, who are walking in the land of the shadow of death

III. The Secret Passion of Jesus (vs. 28-38)

- A. Death is the FINAL Enemy... therefore it will afflict the people of God throughout all of redemptive history
- B. This Fact draws infinite compassion from God through Christ... God's plan will bring us through deep waters of suffering

Isaiah 43:1-2 "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

- C. Jesus' Compassion: The Greatest Comfort to Us in our Suffering
 - 1. We are all going to die, and before that, we are all going to lose loved ones to death
 - 2. This merciless enemy will stalk us both by day and by night
 - 3. It will not spare anyone... young or old, rich or poor, healthy or sickly, powerful or weak, famous or obscure
 - 4. It will rip apart the best-laid earthly plans that anyone can devise, and leave them lifeless on the ground

5. Mourners will stand over the freshly-dug grave, and feel an anguish in their hearts they cannot put into words
6. Jesus' compassion for us at that time is the best comfort any of us can have to help us endure

D. In No Other Passage Do We See It So Powerfully

1. The emotional life of our Lord flows in this passage
2. Up to this moment, we have only seen the Kingly side of Jesus... strong, in control, wise and composed
3. But it is the tender Mary who melts his outward display of calm and the emotions begin to flow—some of them openly seen, others deeply hidden
 - a. Mary... the one who sat at his feet and drank in his wisdom while her sister bustled around making all kinds of dishes for their special dinner
 - b. But this time, she was so devastated by Lazarus's death and Jesus' inexplicable delay that when Martha ran out to see Jesus, she couldn't bring herself to face him yet
 - c. Jesus had to call her specifically BY NAME to come out and interact with him... and when she gets there:

John 11:32-33 she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

4. Mary's anguished statement opened up the Lord's heart and his emotions began to flow freely

Jesus was... deeply moved in spirit and troubled...

- a. This unleashed a deep river of COMPASSION in Jesus
- b. The Greek phrase John uses is stunning

- c. The basic emotion is RAGE... pure RAGE... but it is deeply hidden within himself; like a subterranean river never visible
 - d. John puts a prefix on it—"within himself" or "internally"—and then adds the words "in spirit" or within his soul
 - e. John also mentions that Jesus was troubled... like a storm-tossed sea, raging, billowing, foaming, churning
5. What was he so angry about? What caused this hidden rage?
 6. If you had been there, standing near him, you would have been able to see some aspects of the secret, hidden passion of Jesus on his face and in his bodily motions... but you would have seen less than the tip of the iceberg
 7. The RAGE of Jesus here was not directed at any person... not at Mary, or at Martha, or any of the Jews at the funeral
 8. WHAT THEN? Go back to what Jesus said a moment ago... "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE"... I am absolutely the OPPOSITE of death and death is the opposite of me...
 9. As Paul would later write in 1 Corinthians 15

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 [Christ] must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

10. Death is Christ's bitterest enemy... he HATES death and wants to DESTROY IT forever... but he can't do it yet, because he knows that death must only be vanquished at the end of human history
11. God the Father has willed that

Romans 6:23 the wages of sin is death

Genesis 2:17 you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.

12. This is the just penalty of God for our sin... and God wills that it play out to the bitter end

13. BUT HOW DEEPLY JESUS YEARNS to end death's vicious reign RIGHT NOW

E. The Open Display is Simple: Tears

John 11:34-37 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept.

1. Jesus wept. The shortest verse in the Bible. And one of the most powerful
2. Jesus was weeping for US... weeping for all of his sheep throughout history who would feel death's cold iron grip.

F. YET... More Questions About Jesus

³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

1. The weeping displayed his love
2. But it opened more questions about Jesus... why didn't he use his power to heal Lazarus instead of merely showing up at his funeral and weeping for him and his sisters?
3. Jesus' promises don't mean anything if he doesn't have the power to back them up...

IV. The Supernatural Power of Jesus (vs. 38-44)

A. Jesus' Deep Rage Over Death is Asserted Again

John 11:38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

1. Jesus is going to move powerfully here to display a SIGN of his dominance... even if death will not finally be defeated that day
2. The tomb was a cave with a stone over the entrance... exactly what Jesus would himself escape in a very short time

B. "Take Away the Stone"

John 11:39-41 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone.

1. Jesus commands the stone to be removed...
2. Martha, ever practical, wants to say what a bad idea that would be
3. After four days, the stench of the decay in that hot climate would be perhaps at its maximum
4. Women were frequently involved in caring for corpses... as the women would seek to do with Jesus' own body that first Easter morning
5. But she does not fully realize what Jesus is about to do
6. This whole event was orchestrated by God to put Jesus' glory on display... a wretched stench would mar that glory

C. A Simple, Powerful Prayer

1. Jesus does nothing apart from his Father

John 5:19 "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

2. The prayer is a clear indication that he cannot and will not raise Lazarus APART FROM THE FATHER... but it is the Father who is using him to raise Lazarus from the dead

John 11:41-42 Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

3. There is no need for an elaborate prayer... but the prayer is voiced aloud so that everyone standing around may see the identity of Jesus as the Son of the Father

4. Notice also Jesus' incredible childlike confidence in his own prayer!

D. The Powerful Display

John 11:43-44 *When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."*

1. There is no effort exerted by Jesus
2. His word has power of life for the dead... the command carries with it the power to obey... to RISE and COME OUT OF THE TOMB!!!

V. The Searching Question of Jesus: Do You Believe Me?

A. The Most Vital Issue of this Day is to Answer Jesus' Question

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

1. Death came because of sin... all of us have sinned and broken the commandments of God
2. Jesus is the only Savior for sinners... he died in our place, drinking in death for us that we might live
3. ALL WE MUST DO is believe in Christ... "DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?" Do you believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? Do you believe that he has the power to forgive your sins and raise you from the dead? Are you willing to turn from sin and follow him?"

B. Trusting in this Promise NOW When Death Seems So Powerful

1. A few weeks ago, we celebrated this incredible verse

Revelation 21:4 *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

2. There will come a day when death will die... we should rejoice NOW over that
3. When funerals for Christians come, we should weep... but weep in HOPE

C. Co-Laborers with Jesus

1. We do not have the power to raise the dead... either physically or spiritually... but God has given us a role to play
 - a. Notice how Jesus commanded the people to remove the stone... getting ready for Lazarus's resurrection... that was their role BEFORE THE RESURRECTION
 - b. Notice also that after Lazarus's resurrection, he ordered them to TAKE OFF THE GRAVE CLOTHES and let him go... that was their role AFTER THE RESURRECTION
 - c. So it is with the gospel ministry
 - i) Conversion is essentially a spiritual resurrection

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

- ii) We cannot raise the dead, but we can SPEAK THE WORDS of Christ to the dead and pray to God to raise them
- iii) And after they have come alive, we can teach them to obey everything Christ has commanded... discipleship... unwrapping the grave clothes of their previous life of sin so they can walk in newness of life

James Paton and his wife took their lives in their hands and went to the New Hebrides and preached the gospel to the cannibals... he knew that his own life was a brief vapor that would soon pass and his physical body would be eaten by worms... he used that brief life to see Christ raise the dead spiritually... what about us??