

**Sermon Notes**  
**From Death to Glory**  
Sunday, March 20, 2022

**John 11:3-4 (NIV)** - "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.'"

In the same way that the raising of Lazarus from the dead brought God glory, he also receives glory by raising us, who are dead in our sins, to life through our faith in Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 2:1(NIV)** - "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins."  
**Ephesians 1:13 (NIV)** - And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of his glory.

When Jesus came to raise Lazarus from the dead Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died (John 11:21b)."

After some more dialogue with Mary, how did Jesus respond to her statement, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died"? "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this? (John 11:25-26)

Jesus is saying the same thing to us as we question all of the dead things in our lives and as we feel the effects of living in a sinful, broken world. When God looks at us he sees his eternal plan of redemption. He knows that in him, though we are dead in our transgressions and sins, life awaits all those who will believe in him.

As Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 4:17, God knows that the light and momentary afflictions that we face in this world cannot compare with the eternal glory we will share with him. He also knows that his love is able to heal every hurt, every wound, every traumatic experience. He knows that he is able to redeem, restore, and send us out into the purpose for which he created us.

As Pastor mentioned in the message "Love's Motivation" from the Lazarus Series: "God's love motivates Him to meet you at your dark place and lift you out of it. He wants to do a miracle in your life because He loves you!"

Going back to the story of Lazarus in John 11 we read more dialogue between Martha and Jesus. Then Martha goes to get Mary. Mary came to where Jesus was and a crowd of mourners gathered around. Jesus wept with them.

This is an important point for us to remember. Even though Jesus knows that he will raise us to life when we believe in him, he still weeps with us as we are going through our pain. As the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 34:18: The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

After Jesus weeps with them they all made their way to the tomb. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha,..."by this time there is a bad odor for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God? (John 11:39-40)"

The word glory means "very great praise, honor, or distinction bestowed by common consent." - Dictionary.com

**Revelation 4:11** says of God: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

**The glory of God is seen in his power.** His power is displayed in all of creation. The power of God was on display when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. And the power of God is on display every time someone believes in Jesus and is redeemed.

**The glory of God is seen in the light of his presence.**

**Exodus 34:29** - When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord.

**Matthew 17:1-2** - After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. **2** There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

**Hebrews 1:3** - The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word...

In the gospel of John Jesus is described as light.

**John 1:9** - The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

To the church in Ephesus he wrote, "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first... (**Revelation 2:5a**)."

**Psalm 8:5** reminds us that God made humans a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned them with glory and honor.

In our present state as humans we are a little lower than the angels, but the day will come when we reign with Christ that we will judge the world and angels (**1 Corinthians 6:2-3**).

**In the Enduring Word Commentary on 1 Corinthians 6:3 David Guzik writes:** The destiny of redeemed men and women – to one day be higher than the angels and to even sit in judgment of them – must greatly annoy a certain high angel in heaven. He did not want to serve an inferior creature now, and did not want that inferior creature to be raised up higher than even he. So, he rebelled against God, and is determined to keep as much of humanity as possible from sitting in judgment of *himself*. We can imagine the perverse, proud pleasure Satan takes over every soul that goes to hell: *“They won’t sit in judgment over me!”*

Many scholars believe that a description of Satan, one of God’s guardian cherubs (which is what the highest ranking angels are called), is found in Ezekiel 28.

**Ezekiel 28:11-19 -**

**11** The word of the LORD came to me: **12** “Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“You were the seal of perfection,  
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

**13** You were in Eden,  
the garden of God;  
every precious stone adorned you:  
carnelian, chrysolite and emerald,  
topaz, onyx and jasper,  
lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.

Your settings and mountings were made of gold;  
on the day you were created they were prepared.

**14** You were anointed as a guardian cherub,  
for so I ordained you.

You were on the holy mount of God;  
you walked among the fiery stones.

**15** You were blameless in your ways  
from the day you were created  
till wickedness was found in you.

**16** Through your widespread trade  
you were filled with violence,  
and you sinned.

So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,  
and I expelled you, guardian cherub,  
from among the fiery stones.

**17** Your heart became proud  
on account of your beauty,  
and you corrupted your wisdom

because of your splendor.  
 So I threw you to the earth;  
 I made a spectacle of you before kings.  
**18** By your many sins and dishonest trade  
 you have desecrated your sanctuaries.  
 So I made a fire come out from you,  
 and it consumed you,  
 and I reduced you to ashes on the ground  
 in the sight of all who were watching.  
**19** All the nations who knew you  
 are appalled at you;  
 you have come to a horrible end  
 and will be no more.”

Jesus told his disciples that he saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven (**Luke 10:18**)

And according to **Romans 3:23**, “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

#### Ezekiel 1

- The four living creatures in Ezekiel’s vision are cherubim who have been given the role of guarding the glory of the Lord.
  - They have four faces (v. 6, 10) - the face of a man is forward facing. They also had four wings.
  - Their legs are straight (v. 7). They are upright in God’s presence.
  - Each one went straight ahead; they did not turn as they moved (v. 9).
  - Two of their wings spread upward, each wing touching that of the creature on either side; and each had two other wings covering its body (v. 11).
  - ◆ Later in the vision Ezekiel sees that the cherubim form a square and above them the throne of God is being carried. Their uplifted wings carry the glory of God. Their other two wings cover their bodies in humility (v. 22-28). We need a covering. When God created Adam and Eve they were covered by the glory of his presence. When they sinned against God the glory of God’s presence was removed and they were covered in shame.
    - We too are carriers of God’s glory - his manifested goodness.
      - ◆ The fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth. (Ephesians 5:8-14)
      - ◆ The fruit of the Spirit show forth God’s glory.
  - God is enthroned in the praises of his people.
    - With outstretched arms we surrender to the Lord while at the same time we bow ourselves before him in humility.
      - ◆ 1 Timothy 2:8-10