



For the Week of July 08, 2012

Good Questions, Straight Answers:
good news: Jesus, the resurrection and the life

Life Notes for Missional Communities

God's message for you: John 11:1-46

Pastor Mark spoke this weekend about Jesus, the resurrection and the life. No matter what we face in this world, Jesus has conquered it all. And the resurrection and the life are ours.

Remember that **Life Notes** are here to help you move Scripture into your heart and life as you hear from the Holy Spirit. Journal - a word, a phrase or a page. You'll see God at work in life-changing ways.

missional community suggestion

Facilitators: if possible, ask your community members to come to the meeting prepared by doing the following sections or **Daily Life Notes** before they arrive. For some who meet on Sunday or Monday, this might not be possible. As facilitators, come with an overview for those who are unable to do the work ahead of time. The questions offer ideas and suggestions, but please feel free to follow the Spirit's leading.

Life Notes are intended to be a starting point or reference as you facilitate conversation around the sermon content each week. Ideally, we pray each person who attends MISSION is daily living in God's Word. Know that we're here to help you with that conversation and don't hesitate to ask for any support you need.

for missional communities not doing life notes

Spend a few moments at the beginning or save time at the end of your meeting to review what the group remembers as Pastor Mark's main sermon theme. Then respond to the following examen questions.

(To refresh your memory, when we share in "examen" together, we're asking the two extremes of a question: the most or the greatest and the least. This helps us look honestly at what is happening in our lives or how we are thinking/processing our relationships and experiences.)

Examen: *The situation/thing/person I find it is easiest to trust Jesus with today...*
 The situation/thing/person I find it is most difficult to trust Jesus with today..

I am currently aware that I need to surrender this area/person/situation to "the resurrection and the life"...

the word: John 11:1-46

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 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.

Word came to Jesus from the sisters: *“Lord, the one you love is sick.”*

Jesus: *“This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”*

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

Jesus (to his disciples): *“Let us go back to Judea.”*

Disciples: *“But Rabbi, a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?”*

Jesus: *“Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world’s light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”*

Disciples: *“Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.”*

Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

Jesus: *“Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”*

Thomas (to the rest of the disciples): *“Let us also go, that we may die with him.”*

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

Martha: *“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”*

Jesus: *“Your brother will rise again.”*

Martha: *“I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”*

Jesus: *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

Martha: *"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."*

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside.

Martha: *"The Teacher is here and is asking for you."*

When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet.

Mary: *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

Jesus: *"Where have you laid him?"*

Those with Mary: *"Come and see, Lord."*

Jesus wept.

Jews: *"See how he loved him!"*

Some of the Jews: *"Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"*

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

Jesus: *"Take away the stone."*

Martha: *"But, Lord, by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."*

Jesus: *"Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"*

So they took away the stone.

Jesus (looking up): *"Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 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."*

When he had said this, Jesus called out in a loud voice,

Jesus (in a loud voice): *"Lazarus, come out!"*

The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus: *“Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”*

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

to believe

We all believe in something...in many things, really. And when it comes to believing in Jesus, that's our first real step of faith. But we don't fully believe when we newly believe - we are all in process.

When and what did you first believe?

What has become easier for you to believe as you've walked with Jesus?

What is still difficult for you to believe as you walk with Jesus?

The following stories from John address the concept of belief. Read the verses/chapters and then think through what you learn about “to believe” from these passages. (For your interest, a full list of the greek usage of “πιστεύω” - pisteuo “believe” - in John 1:1-11:46 is included at the end of **Life Notes**.)

John 1:12; John 3; John 5; John 6:29; John 9

What is belief and what do you learn about belief from Nicodemus, John the Baptist, the man at the pool of Bethesda, the religious leaders, the disciples, the man born blind and others who were observing and listening to Jesus?

Martha, Mary, Lazarus and the disciples

Read John 11 again, focusing on the purpose for Lazarus' death and the belief-response of those witnessing the experience. Read John 6:29 to focus your thoughts on God's purposes.

What is the purpose for Lazarus' death? (11:14)

Why do you think Jesus said this to the disciples? Did they not yet believe in Jesus? What do you think Jesus meant? Do you think the belief of the disciples changed with the Lazarus story? In what way(s) and why?

How did Martha show her belief?

How did Mary show her belief?

How did Lazarus show his belief?

How did some of the Jewish friends show their belief?

How did the disciples show their belief?

believe: when life is hard

Last week, we discussed security when life is difficult. This week, we learn about God's purposes in the midst of the difficulties, and we see his purposes lived out through various people in the story. Clearly, the sisters and the friends of Lazarus would have wanted him to be healed rather than to die, but the Father had a different purpose in mind.

Pastor Mark taught that one of the more amazing statements of faith comes from Martha in 11:21-27, in the midst of her loss.

What did Martha believe about Jesus?

What specific actions grew out of Martha's belief? (think about those actions that are obvious in the text as well as those not so obvious)

What did it mean to Martha that Jesus is the resurrection?

What did it mean to Martha that Jesus is the life?

What does Jesus teach in John 11 about himself and the Father?

What does it mean to you today that Jesus is the resurrection?

What does it mean to you today that Jesus is the life?

Examen: *The most obvious example of Jesus as resurrection and life that I see in my life is...*
 The least obvious example of Jesus as resurrection and life that I see in my life is...

When difficulties arise, this is how I often process those difficulties initially...

When difficulties arise, this is how I try to walk with those difficulties in faith...

How can Jesus as resurrection and life affect your faith/your belief when difficulties arise?

questions for group focus
secure: John 11:1-46

for the week of July 8, 2012

Begin by reading John 11:1-46 out loud as a community. As a group, discuss anything that particularly stands out for you - that you like or maybe don't like - in this passage.

As a group, share what you've learned about what it means to believe.

Examen: *Where or when is it most obvious to others that you believe in Jesus?*
 Where or when is it least obvious to others that you believe in Jesus?

If you had to say one area where you need God's help to strengthen or increase your belief, what would that area be?

Pastor Mark talked about our expectations of life and what we want God to do versus God's plans or intentions. In the case of Lazarus' death, God intended this for good so that he would be glorified and so that the disciples and others would believe in Jesus. (Have someone read John 6:29 to lay a context for what God desires.)

It was the obvious desire of Martha, Mary, Lazarus, their friends that Jesus heal Lazarus long before he was dead for four days. But God had a different experience planned and a very different ending.

Talk about your own expectations versus God's expectations in your life.

Can you think of and share a time in your life when what you wanted was completely different than what God allowed, yet you could see God at work in the end result?

*What is God allowing in your life right now that you want him to change or do differently?
What might God be doing in the midst of this situation?*

What would it look like for you to believe even more fully in the midst of and as a result of this situation?

Close by praying for each other, specifically that your belief will strengthen as a result of what God is doing or allowing in your lives.

Next Week

To prepare for next week's sermon, read John 11:45-57 and pages 136-142 in Metzger's *The Gospel of John: When Love Comes to Town*. Email questions you might have on these passages in John to Pastor Mark at markc@mission68.org.

word study on πιστεύω (pisteuo), John 1:1-11:46

1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he authority to become the sons of God, even to those who believe on his name.

1:50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these."

2:11 This beginning of miracles Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

2:22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this to them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

2:24 But Jesus did not trust himself to them, because he knew all men.

3:12 "If I have told you earthly things, and you do not believe, how shall you believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?"

3:15 That whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

3:18 He who believes in him is not condemned: but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life: and he who does not obey the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him.

4:21 Jesus says to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour comes, when you shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father."

4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in him for the saying of the woman, who testified, He told me all that ever I did.

4:41 And many more believed because of his own word;

4:42 And said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of your saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

4:48 Then Jesus said to him, "Except you see signs and wonders, you will certainly not believe."

4:50 Jesus says to him, "Go your way; your son lives." And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken to him, and he went his way.

4:53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives: and himself believed, and his whole house."

5:24 "Amen, amen, I say to you, He who hears my word, and believes in him who sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life."

5:38 "And you do not have his word abiding in you: for whom he has sent, him you do not believe."

5:44 "How are you able to believe, who receive honor one of another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?"

5:46 "For had you believed Moses, you would have believed me: for he wrote of me..."

5:47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how shall you believe my words?"

6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

6:30 Therefore they said to him, "What sign do you show then, that we may see, and may believe? What do you work?"

6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life: he who comes to me shall never hunger; and he who believes in me shall never thirst."

6:36 But I said to you, "That you also have seen me, and do not believe."

6:40 And this is the will of him who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

6:47 "Amen, amen, I say to you, He who believes in me has everlasting life."

6:64 "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray him.

6:69 "And we have believed and are sure that you are that Christ, the Son of the living God."

7:5 For neither did his brothers believe in him.

7:31 And many of the crowd believed in him, and said, "When Christ comes, will he do more miracles than these which this man has done?"

7:38 "He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

7:39 (But this he spoke of the Spirit, which those who believe in him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified.)

7:48 "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him?"

8:24 "Therefore I said to you, that you shall die in your sins: for if you do not believe that I am he, you shall die in your sins."

8:30 As he spoke these words, many believed in him.

8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed;"

8:45 "And because I tell you the truth, you do not believe me."

8:46 "Which of you convinces me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do you not believe me?"

9:18 Therefore the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.

9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

9:36 He answered and said, "Who is he, Lord, that I might believe in him?"

9:37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen him, and it is he who talks with you."

9:38 And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him.

10:25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me."

10:26 "But you do not believe, because you are not of my sheep, as I said to you."

10:37 "If I do not the works of my Father, do not believe me."

10:38 "But if I do, though you do not believe me, believe the works: that you may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."

10:42 And many believed in him there.

11:15 "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent you may believe; nevertheless let us go to him."

11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

11:26 "And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

11:27 She says to him, "Yes, Lord: I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who should come into the world."

11:28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, "The teacher is come, and calls for you."

11:40 Jesus says to her, "Did I not say to you, that, if you would believe, you would see the glory of God?"

11:42 "And I knew that you hear me always: but because of the people who stand by I said it, that they may believe that you have sent me."

11:45 Then many of the Jews who came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed in him.