



Text: John 11:17-44

PROMISE

_____ people have challenges, but never
have to walk around in _____ clothes.

Two kinds of Grave Clothes:

- 1) _____ Grave Clothes
- 2) _____ Grave Clothes

One Year Bible Reading

July 5: 1 Chronicles 1:1-2:17, Acts 23:11-35, Psalm 3:1-8, Proverbs 18:14-15

July 6: 1 Chronicles 2:18-4:4, Acts 24:1-27, Psalm 4:1-8, Proverbs 18:16-18

July 7: 1 Chronicles 4:5-5:17, Acts 25:1-27, Psalm 5:1-12, Proverbs 18:19

July 8: 1 Chronicles 5:18-6:81, Acts 26:1-32, Psalm 6:1-10, Proverbs 18:20-21

July 9: 1 Chronicles 7:1-8:40, Acts 27:1-20, Psalm 7:1-17, Proverbs 18:22

July 10: 1 Chronicles 9:1-10:14, Acts 27:21-44, Psalm 8:1-9, Proverbs 18:23-24

July 11: 1 Chronicles 11:1-12:18, Acts 28:1-31, Psalm 9:1-12, Proverbs 19:1-3

July 5, 2015

PROMISES

Life Group Lesson • Week of July 5

It's summertime and the sun shines brightly. But the sun in our solar system cannot even compare to the radiant glory that will one day blaze forth from the living God! All will see it. In the end, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that, yes, Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Christ promises resurrection life to those who believe in Him. He told Martha outside the tomb of her brother Lazarus: "I am the resurrection and the life... Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die" (see John 11:25-26). Then He calls Lazarus back to life!

Read John 11:1-44

"There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light" (John 11:9-10). Right now, many of us live according to the dim "light" of this world—popular culture, notions and philosophies around us. But have you ever stopped to ask yourself where you will be when "night" comes—will you stumble for lack of true light?

1. When you draw your last breath and your life on this earth is snuffed out, are you prepared to face eternity? Do you know, and love, and trust the One who said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25a)?

Notice what Jesus asks Martha in the second part of this verse: "Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" (v25b) Now insert your name in place of Martha's name at the end of this verse. Imagine Jesus asking you this question:

"Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, _____?"

What is your response?

Even though she had just lost her brother, Martha responds immediately: "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One who has come into the world from God" (v27). Faith is a gift. There was not a doubt in Martha's mind and heart that Jesus was (and is!) who He said He was—the Resurrection and the Life. If you are struggling with doubts, perhaps unsure of Jesus' identity—is He really the Son of God, the Savior of the world—why not ask Him now for the gift of faith? The Lord is generous and He will not mind you asking Him for faith to believe.

2. Read the following passages and list some of the good things the Lord is ready to give those who sincerely ask.

Luke 11:9-13 Psalm 2:8 Psalm 103:2-6 James 1:5 John 16:23-24

Once we place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ resurrection life begins. Our true citizenship is no longer this world, but heaven. In fact, the apostle Paul says: "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sight on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits 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 is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:1-3). When Jesus told Martha, "Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying"—He meant *anyone*. No matter what you've done or how dark your past, Jesus invites you to know Him personally today.

3. Just as Jesus was angry the day He overturned the tables of the thieves and moneychangers in the Temple, Jesus was angry when He arrived at Lazarus' tomb (see v38). Why does darkness make Jesus angry?

Jesus not only said, "I am the resurrection and the life" — He proved His power when He called Lazarus forth from the tomb. If you have accepted Christ, think back to the time Christ called you out of darkness. In the space below, name the ways He has proven His power to you personally.

If we are around Jesus long enough, we too will get angry over the darkness (all the lies, deception, and deadly distractions) that entombs humanity and keeps people from seeing the truth. This world is not getting better. It is deteriorating. Yet, even so, Christ calls us out of this dying world unto Himself—to the resurrection and the life that He alone offers. Oh that we would believe upon His name today! He told Martha: "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?"

4. Jesus said, "My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you... Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light" (John 12:35a, 36). The clock over your life is ticking. How much time remains for you—do you know?

What do the following Scriptures have to say on the subject?

Isaiah 55:6 Hebrews 3:13 2 Corinthians 6:2 2 Peter 3:8-15

Of course there is no way to know how much time we have left, or for that matter how much time this world has left before the Lord says, "Enough." What we can know undeniably, however, is that the Lord "wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). Jesus loves you and invites you into a relationship with Himself. Resurrection life can start now. Pray this simple prayer:

Lord, thank you for loving me enough to die on the cross. I don't understand everything about salvation, but I do believe you are "the resurrection and the life"—I need you. Please forgive me of my sin, cleanse my heart, and help me live a new life. Fill me with your love. Give me a new purpose in You. In Jesus' name. Amen.