

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Text: John 11:1-44, Acts 2:42-47

Plain Truth

Fighting from victory the Spirit _____ us to defeat _____ and _____ acts of _____ and _____ to Jesus' _____!

1. When I Fight From VICTORY - I take _____ at defeating _____.
2. When I Fight From VICTORY - I _____ the _____ by _____ acts of _____.
3. When I Fight From VICTORY - I _____ on millions of unchurched persons by _____ one _____ at a time my _____ of Jesus' _____ power.

May 19 & 20, 2018

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Life Group Lesson

Week of May 20

Throughout the gospel of John, Jesus is focused on carrying out the work assigned Him by His Father. Jesus was sent from above to connect people with God: “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth” (John 1:51). John the Baptist said: “He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things, but He has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else” (John 3:31).

The fact that God *became like us* proves God was willing to cross enemy lines for us. God in Christ had power and authority to forgive sins, heal people, and even raise the dead. One day, not long before He would take the cross, Jesus received news that his friend Lazarus was sick. But after hearing the news, Jesus delays and says, “Lazarus’ sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this” (John 11:4).

Read John 11:1-44

1. Jesus purposely delays His arrival in order to reveal His power over death. As Jesus told Martha, He tells you: “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying” (John 11:25). As Jesus asked Martha, He asks you: “Do you believe this?” Do you believe Jesus is *YOUR* resurrection and life?

As Jesus approached the tomb, He was surrounded by sorrowful people weeping and wailing. A deep anger rose up in Him (v33). What is it about the plight of humanity – the curse of sin, death, man’s indifference and unbelief – that makes Jesus so angry?

Now, Read John 11:45-54

2. We may not think about it often, but our unbelief stirs up anger in the heart of God. The religious leaders saw Jesus’ miracles and yet they refused to believe. In fact, they ‘began to plot Jesus’ death’. Why does God’s Son pose a threat to many?

Read Acts 2:32-47

Jesus exposes darkness for what it is. When Peter preached at Pentecost, fifty days after Christ’s resurrection, Peter declared: “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Empowerment follows repentance.

3. Sin must be dealt with because sin is what keeps us from God. Jesus did His part when He died on the cross (God proved Jesus’ sacrifice paid for sin when God raised His Son from the grave) and now we must do our part: repent. To ‘repent’ means *to turn*. List ways the early believers proved they had turned from sin, according to Acts 2:42-47.

Notice “they sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.” God may not ask us to liquidate our assets for others, but He does expect His children to tithe. Do you tithe the first ten percent of your income? If not, would you be willing to take the 90-day challenge? Try it (Malachi 3:10). You will not regret it!

“No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven” (John 3:27).
John the Baptist

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