

**Renewing Our Faith, Hope, Love**  
**Outline – January 7, 2024**  
**John 11:1-6, 13-27, 32-44**

**The Elements Of Life (Needed For Happiness)**

- I. **What are the elements of life?**
  - A. Faith is crucial
  - B. Hope is essential
  - C. Love is paramount
  - D. With these elements life is meaningful
  - E. Without these elements life is depressing and dramatic
- II. **What grief does to us in life**
  - A. It seeks to crush our faith, hope, and love
  - B. Grief can last for decades preventing any happiness from lasting
  - C. Life's circumstances, situations and losses can crush the elements of life that are needed to enjoy life
- III. **The Spiritual impact of loss, grief, and heartbreak**
  - A. The seed of doubting God
  - B. A hidden anger with God
  - C. The belief that it wasn't suppose to be this way
  - D. The stages and challenges of grief
  - E. Grief is real, it is universal, it is complex
- IV. **The story of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus**
  - A. John brings us to a place where we have all been or at some point will be
  - B. John shows us how Jesus orchestrates a situation so that we may see
    1. How God deals with our ultimate pain
    2. To demonstrate God's ultimate purpose
    3. To declare God's ultimate plan
    4. To demonstrate God's ultimate power
    5. To deliver us to His ultimate place
- V. **The plan of Jesus that seems so confusing until you see the final outcome**
  - A. The friends of Jesus, Mary, Martha, Lazarus
  - B. Lazarus a close friend is dying
  - C. Jesus pauses for 2 days
    1. He had healed others quickly
    2. He healed those he didn't know
    3. He waits for Lazarus to die
  - D. Jesus said " I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe"
  - E. Jesus would go and face
    1. The grief
    2. The disappointment
    3. The anger

- 4. 2 sisters who lost their brother
- F. And the question everyone was asking, where is Jesus?
- VI. The family was having the where is God moment**
  - A. Life and death were crushing their faith, hope, love
  - B. Jesus is affirming those moments of frustration and grief and questions with no condemnation
    - 1. He wants us to know he gets us
- VII. The confrontation with Martha**
  - A. She is not happy
  - B. She knows the times she helped, served, gave and hosted
  - C. She declares, if you had been here my brother would not have died
    - 1. Translation, "It's your fault"
- VIII. Now their story, intersects with ours**
  - A. Some have felt God isn't there
  - B. Some have felt God doesn't care
  - C. Disappointment is a shadow in our soul, believing God didn't come through
  - D. Mary and Martha represent us
    - 1. Anger, frustration, disappointment
    - 2. Faith, hope, love crushed
- IX. The plan and the power He demonstrates**
  - A. He has a plan
  - B. He has you in mind
  - C. He knows who He is and what He is about to accomplish
    - 1. I am the resurrection and the life
    - 2. Do you believe this
- X. Jesus' command and prayer that we may believe**
  - A. As He raises Lazarus from the dead (after 4 days), we can believe He has the power over death
  - B. His point, Jesus defeats death
  - C. As Lazarus was raised so shall we
  - D. This assures your future
  - E. That our circumstances are not a symptom of His absence
- XI. Maybe this is your story**
  - A. As we get past the confusion of our circumstances
  - B. When we realize we are included in His story
  - C. When we see Him at work in our lives
  - D. We can see Him increasing our faith, hope and love
  - E. And be confident He is in this with us

**As He Gives Us A Picture Of Our Future  
Let's Live Out The New Year For  
His Glory And Purpose**