

Unwrapping a New Life

Part two of the series, "Wrapped in Love"

Sunday, December 11, 2022 | Edwin Izumigawa

Jesus wants to unwrap us from what holds us back.

"Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. ³⁹ 'Roll the stone aside,' Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, 'Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.' ⁴⁰ Jesus responded, 'Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?' ⁴¹ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.' ⁴³ Then Jesus shouted, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, 'Unwrap him and let him go!'" (John 11:38-44 NLT)

Following Christ means we start a new life.

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT)

As a response to His gift, God asks us to share that same gift with others.

"And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:18-21 NLT)

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