

Unwrapping a New Life

Part two of the series, "Wrapped in Love"

Sunday, December 11, 2022 | Pastor Billy Lile

"Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.³⁴ And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.'³⁵ Jesus wept.³⁶ So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?'³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.³⁹ Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.'⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?'⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.'⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.'⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'" (John 11:32-44 ESV)

Jesus calls us from death to life.

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved." (Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV)

We are enabled to live a new life as we allow God to "unbind" us through discipleship.

"...Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'" (John 11:44 ESV)

Through Christ, we can live a new life on earth and can help to "unbind" others.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

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