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“Freedom” | John 11:38-44

John 11:38-44

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."

Today's Focus:

Everyone wants freedom. (financial, emotional, physical, spiritual)

True freedom comes from God and in a way that is not according to anything man can accomplish on his own.

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- **I. Freedom:** It may not come the way you thought but it will be more than you could imagine.
- God will use barriers to our faith to become builders of our faith.
- We must not worry about the smell of death, instead we must focus on the sense that God is up to something!
- **II. Freedom:** Comes through hearing and listening. (“didn’t I tell you” v. 40)
- Don’t let questions keep you from the obvious.

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- **III. Freedom:** Empowerment comes through His power and not our effort.
- You don't need more rigor you need more release.
- It's not trying more it's trusting more.
- There is still that kind of power (freeing power) in JESUS' Words

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- **IV. Freedom:** Sometimes you must unwrap before you can walk.
- God will take what was used in our bondage as a reminder of what God has done to provide for us our deliverance! (grave clothes)
- This narrative is another picture of how Jesus changes lives!
Death→Burial→Resurrection→Life

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