

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Spring 2025 - Signs - "The Glory of His Love"

Monday, Apr. 14 - Sunday, Apr. 20 (Week 11)

In the sermon, Pastor Mike focuses on the profound miracle of Lazarus's resurrection, emphasizing that these signs or miracles in John's Gospel serve as reflections of the glory of Jesus. He stresses that the story is more than just about Lazarus: it reveals the counterintuitive love of Jesus. As Lazarus falls ill and dies, Jesus's response to Martha and Mary's plea for help is puzzling, as he delays his arrival intentionally. Pastor Mike points out that this delay is woven into the fabric of divine love, demonstrating that sometimes grief and suffering lead to greater faith and understanding of God's glory. Pastor Mike delves into the emotional interactions between Jesus and Martha and Mary, highlighting their different responses to grief. Martha engages with theological understanding, while Mary expresses raw, emotional pain. Through their encounters with Jesus, Pastor Mike illustrates that, in the midst of suffering, it is essential to recognize Jesus's love and the purpose of grief, not as a sign of abandonment but as a pathway to deeper faith. Pastor Mike concludes that true conversion is a spiritual resurrection, as only Jesus can call individuals from spiritual death into life and invites listeners to consider their own "grave of sin" and respond to Jesus's call to new life.

- How does the sermon describe the "peculiar, counterintuitive love of Jesus"?
- Can you think of a time in your life when you felt God's love in a "peculiar, counterintuitive" way? How did it change your perspective?
- The sermon mentions that Jesus allows grief to strengthen our faith. How do you see this principle at work in your own life or in the lives of others?
- Discuss the significance of Jesus delaying his visit to Lazarus. How does this challenge our understanding of God's timing?
- How can you apply patience and trust in God's timing in a current situation you are facing?
- The sermon invites us to consider what we have "sealed in the dark" that Jesus wants to bring to light. What might this "stone" be in your life and what steps can you take to "roll away the stone" and allow Jesus to work in that area?

