

Disappointment

- Our lesson begins with a spirit of disappointment
 - Martha and Mary are disappointed that Jesus was not around when their brother died.
 - Both say “Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died.
 - These are people of faith and they feel as if Jesus has let them down.
 - They must have wondered what could have been more important to Jesus than their brother’s life?
- Martha and Mary confess their faith in the midst of their disappointment.
 - In the middle of profound loss they confess a faith in the resurrection.
 - Jesus not only confirms this confession but he even goes one step further—he brings Lazarus back to life.
- We are faced with disappointment throughout life
 - Sometimes we are disappointed, and sometimes we are the ones doing the disappointing.
 - How do we deal with disappointment
 - We can retreat from the world, or
 - We can discover faithfulness in the midst of disappointment.

Faithfulness allows us to participate in the signs of God’s Kingdom

- Here’s what could have happened if Martha and Mary had not remained faithful
 - Jesus would have shown up in Bethany greeted by no one
 - He would have gone to the tomb alone and called Lazarus out
 - Lazarus would have had to push his own burial stone away from the cave

- Jesus would have had to take the cloths off Lazarus' face and unbind his limbs
- Jesus would have gone on his way with no advancement of the Kingdom of God
- Here's what happened because of faithfulness in the midst of disappointment
 - Jesus arrives at Bethany and is greeted by Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha
 - They go to the tomb and are followed by a group of people who will witness this miraculous event
 - Jesus tells the group to roll the stone away
 - Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb
 - Jesus tells the group to unbind him and pull the cloth from his face
 - Jesus leaves having transformed many lives, not just Lazarus'
- This is what faith in the midst of disappointment looks like—knowing that Jesus can act even when we do not see the shape that his actions are taking.

How has Jesus called you?

- Has Jesus told you to get out of the tomb?
- Has Jesus invited you to work on the signs of the Kingdom of God?
- Are you being asked to participate in the miracle?
- Jesus can and does us all people who confess their faith in him