

0 (1s):

Happy Easter, everyone. Woo. Happy Easter. He is risen. You're supposed to, he is risen. Indeed. He's risen. There we go.

1 (11s):

It is a beautiful day. It is a great day here in Colorado. Great weather day can be almost 80 today, right? That's exciting. And all you guys look great today. I see some, some nice dresses. Even some suits.

2 (22s):

<inaudible> adjust up for you guys today.

1 (27s):

Well, actually I'm lying. My wife picked us out, but I am so glad that you guys are here today on this amazing Easter Sunday. This is resurrection Sunday. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. That's amazing. That's something worth cheering for right?

0 (44s):

Praise God.

2 (50s):

Yet. Some of you find it hard to believe, right? Let's be honest. We're going to be honest today. Sometimes it's hard to believe. And

1 (59s):

I know for some people they say it's because of science. Like I believe in science, it's kind of hard to believe. We're not going to talk about that too much today because if the last year has taught us anything,

2 (1m 8s):

It said science doesn't have it all figured out. Do you know what science

1 (1m 11s):

Was telling us to do last year at this time

2 (1m 15s):

Were not wear masks. You remember that? They told us not to wear masks for awhile. And we're like, that's crazy. Of course we should have been wearing masks. We know that now. Right.

1 (1m 24s):

Science doesn't have it all figured out. So I think if we even have just like a little tiny microgram or ounce of humility within our souls, we can admit that maybe science doesn't have it all figured out. Right? Can we say

that, that maybe there are some things in this world that we don't have all figured out. So maybe there could be things even like miracles. So we're going to set that aside because I don't think that's the main reason why people, I find it hard to believe in the resurrection. I don't think that's the reason because I've had a lot of conversations with people who don't have faith or who've walked away from the faith or just saying, I don't, I don't know

2 (1m 57s):

Doubts would it almost always comes down to, is that it's hard to believe because of the hard things in life. It's hard to,

1 (2m 8s):

Because of the hard things in life, when we have difficulties, hardships suffering, or when people we care about our suffering, we see the suffering around us in the world and we say, wow, it's kind of hard to believe.

2 (2m 20s):

I

1 (2m 20s):

Know that I've had hard things in my life. I mean, this, this pandemic has been really hard for everybody. But back in January of this year, we, we found out my dad had been diagnosed with Parkinson's

2 (2m 31s):

My, my dad's 65.

1 (2m 32s):

And that this is kind of like a big thing. Like, Whoa, you know, it's going on? And he has this now nervous disorder that caused shaking in his hands and limbs that there's going to be all sorts of physical things that come along with it. And we don't know there's, there's no cure

2 (2m 45s):

Parkinson's and I feel like that's, I mean, that's hard. It's hard for me. It's

1 (2m 51s):

Hard for him. It's hard for our family to figure

2 (2m 54s):

That out. And I know it's not,

1 (2m 56s):

To me. There are some physical things. We worry about sicknesses. Like Covid lot of us have either dealt with it or have family suffer from it, even die from it. That, that we know people also that have had economic hardships too, and financial difficulties, right? Some of you have lost your jobs. I've talked with you, your whole business went under, or your industry is destroyed

2 (3m 17s):

Their hardships

1 (3m 18s):

That we see in our lives and in our relationships. And when those difficulties happen or when we see someone we care about suffering,

2 (3m 26s):

You find it hard to believe. We're going to be honest today. And yet it's into that hardship that Jesus steps today and every day

1 (3m 37s):

Steps. And he's going to teach us something about himself today in this message. It's going to be so important that we learn who Jesus is

2 (3m 44s):

In this message, because we should

1 (3m 48s):

Believe in Jesus. And we should believe in the resurrection.

2 (3m 52s):

And to do that, we're going to look at a story from

1 (3m 55s):

John chapter 11, about a man named Lazarus case. You're like, I thought we're going to be talking about Jesus' resurrection.

2 (3m 60s):

We'll get there. Just wait. But today we're

1 (4m 3s):

Gonna look at the story of Lazarus from John chapter 11. So if you have a Bible or you have a phone, you can even use your smartphone. If you're watching online, open up another browser or something, go to the

YouVersion Bible app. And if you use that, you can find our rice, your Denver event. It's pretty cool. And you can follow along with notes from the scripture

2 (4m 21s):

There. And we're going to be

1 (4m 22s):

In John chapter 11, as we are introduced to this man named Lazarus.

2 (4m 28s):

Now I'm going

1 (4m 28s):

To start in verse one where it says now a man named Lazarus.

2 (4m 32s):

Chris was sick.

1 (4m 35s):

He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her

2 (4m 37s):

Sister, Martha,

1 (4m 40s):

Mary and Martha are sisters, but they're actually also sisters to Lazarus. So there's three siblings here in this story. Lazarus, Mary and

2 (4m 46s):

Martha and

1 (4m 49s):

Lazarus is sick. And it's not just like a little cold. This is something bad. That's getting

2 (4m 52s):

Worse. And if you've

1 (4m 55s):

I read the Bible before, maybe you've heard the story of Mary and Martha from the gospel of Luke, they were

very close friends with Jesus, even welcome Jesus

2 (5m 1s):

Into their home. So Jesus knew them, loved them. They were, they were good friends. These three siblings in Jesus. So it says in verse three. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, Lord, the one you love is sick. He's getting worse, come and help.

1 (5m 20s):

That's why they send word verse four. When he heard this, Jesus said, this sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's son may be glorified

2 (5m 30s):

Through it.

1 (5m 31s):

So the sisters here sent word to Jesus. This is like what we do when we pray, right? God, can you kind of step in someone sick? Can you bring some healing? Someone has a financial hardship, Lord, God, can you provide, we ask God to help us with these things, right? We asked Jesus to step in. If he's the healer and Jesus was well-known as the healer, at this point, he's healed people. He's performed miracles. And if that even is a possibility, I mean, we'll, we'll travel all over the country or world to just find

2 (5m 58s):

Medication for people we love. Right?

1 (6m 0s):

So, so they're like, Jesus, we've heard that you could heal. So can you come? You, you love us. You care about us. We're friends, come on over

2 (6m 6s):

And help Lazarus. Get this verse six. I'm sorry. Verse five. Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. What?

1 (6m 33s):

I thought you loved us. I thought you cared about this person. I thought you were friends with Lazarus. So if you're the healer and this person needs healing, why would you sit where you are for two more

2 (6m 42s):

Days? The word so

1 (6m 44s):

Here in the English, I think it's kind of soft. The actual Greek word could be

2 (6m 48s):

Cancellation translated as therefore, this is causal. Meaning because Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. He stayed for two more days. You could say that because Jesus loved them. He kept waiting.

1 (7m 4s):

They were asking they have a need. And they're like, can you help heal right now before it gets too bad? We know it's very bad. We need healing, right?

2 (7m 11s):

It's not just like a little

1 (7m 13s):

Break of a bone. Okay. We need some healing. Jesus and Jesus waits two more days

2 (7m 18s):

Because he loves them. Now it's hard to wait. Isn't it? It is

1 (7m 24s):

Hard to wait. I know that personally, when Melissa and I were trying to have kids when we were trying to get

2 (7m 29s):

Pregnant and it it'd be a month that we'd find out, okay, it's not happening. We'd wait another month. Another. No. And then another, no. And then another note month

1 (7m 36s):

After month after year after year for five years,

2 (7m 38s):

We were waiting,

1 (7m 41s):

Looking at it and I'm like, okay, it's time now, right? When are you going to show up? When are you going to act? It's hard to believe when we're away.

2 (7m 47s):

Isn't it talk with a couple in our church, who's been wanting to have a child and, and they, they finally decided

to adopt and they were waiting and they finally got lined up with a birth mother. They were so excited. Finally, they have this child that they've been waiting for. And then right at the last moment, the birth mother decided to keep the child, this child. And they'd been waiting for, for so long. And now they're still waiting to adopt a kitten.

1 (8m 14s):

When that happens to us, we're like, okay, what's going on? This timeline, God that you have is totally different than my timeline. I would have done things two days ago, right? Two weeks ago, two years ago, two decades ago, what is taking so long. But what we can see here

2 (8m 30s):

Is that Jesus, his timeline is different than ours. And it doesn't mean he doesn't love us. In fact, because he loves us. Sometimes he's waiting to do something, as he said, that will bring his glory

1 (8m 45s):

When we're in those moments. And it's hard to believe because we're waiting. We're like, Oh my gosh, this is way past my timeline. Don't ever

2 (8m 51s):

Think that Jesus doesn't love you waiting. Not mean he doesn't love you. In fact, he does. And sometimes

1 (8m 60s):

He's waiting to pull off something even better

2 (9m 3s):

Than we were hoping for. But it's hard to wait. It's hard

1 (9m 10s):

To bait. Wait. Especially when things get

2 (9m 12s):

Worse as they do here,

1 (9m 15s):

He just finally decides, okay, after these two days of waiting, he's going to go to Bethany, to this village where Mary and Martha and Lazarus is sick. And they have a little bit of debate with he and his disciples because it was dangerous. This was very near Jerusalem. The city where people kind of had it out for Jesus. But Jesus decides to go anyways, verse 11, after he said this, that he was going to go. He went on to tell them our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I'm going there to wake him up. His disciples are confused

and they're like, okay, if he's sleeping and he's sick, let him sleep. Okay. He needs to get better. That's what happens when you sleep right?

2 (9m 52s):

But in verse

1 (9m 53s):

14. So then he told them, plainly Lazarus is

2 (9m 58s):

Dead. And for you

1 (10m 0s):

Sake, I am glad I was not there so that you may

2 (10m 4s):

Belief, let us go to him. Now. Jesus is not just two days late. He's too late overall. Right? It's too late. It's already happened. And I can just

1 (10m 20s):

Imagine what was going through the heads of the family, these friends in verse 17, it says on his arrival when he gets to Bethany, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been dead in the tomb for four

2 (10m 32s):

Four days. It's not just two days late. Now it's more than four days late. He's been dead and dead and dead. Where was Jesus at the beginning? Where was Jesus?

1 (10m 43s):

When this death was preventable? When, when he was just sick and this is exactly what was going on through the heads of these sisters, look at verse 21. It says, Lord Martha said to Jesus,

2 (10m 53s):

If you had been here, if you had shown up, if you had been there, you could have prevented this. My brother would not have died. She said, if you had been here, where were you? Jesus. And I think that's the same question we ask when things are past

1 (11m 14s):

The time that we can't even wait anymore,

2 (11m 16s):

It's over. Where were you?

1 (11m 19s):

Jesus. Why didn't you prevent this hard thing from happening to me?

2 (11m 23s):

I spoke with another man in our church. He loves his brother and,

1 (11m 28s):

And he cares about them. They grew up together. They're they're so close. And yet his brother started getting involved with drugs. And those drugs turned into harder drugs

2 (11m 38s):

That he's living on the streets and his brother is homeless and doesn't even want to have any help.

1 (11m 46s):

This guy I talked with in our church, he will drive around when he has free time looking for

2 (11m 50s):

His brother. Doesn't know where he is just to help him and maybe even

1 (11m 54s):

Bring him a meal for

2 (11m 55s):

That day. But he has no idea where his brother is. And I'm sure he's thinking,

1 (12m 1s):

Why couldn't you have stopped him before he even started drugs? Why couldn't you stopped him before he got addicted? Why didn't you stop him before he tried the hard stuff? And all of this could have been presented.

2 (12m 9s):

Did you ever felt that way?

1 (12m 13s):

God, why didn't you stop this pandemic before it got so bad? You could have stopped it in China. And there's a whole last year would have been much better wearing it. We wouldn't be wearing masks today in church.

God, why didn't you stop? Before the 68, Scott sickness got too bad and it was incurable or could no longer be operated

2 (12m 35s):

On God.

1 (12m 37s):

Why didn't you prevent this from ever happening? It's hard to believe when that happens,

2 (12m 41s):

Right? Let's be honest.

1 (12m 44s):

It is hard to believe when we're saying Jesus,

2 (12m 47s):

Where were you? Where were you? But Jesus responds to her in verse 25. I'm sorry. Verse 23. Jesus said to her, your brother will rise again.

1 (13m 4s):

Martha answered. I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day, she believed in God. She believed that God at the very end of time would, would raise up all the believers. But that type of resurrection is not what Jesus meant here. When he said

2 (13m 19s):

You will rise. Verse 25, Jesus said to her, he corrects her. He says, I am the resurrection in life.

1 (13m 28s):

The one who believes in me will live, even though they die. And whoever lives by believing in me

2 (13m 34s):

Will never die. Do you believe this?

1 (13m 38s):

Jesus says, here is not that I can rise someone from the dead. He doesn't even say that I can rise from the dead. He said, I am the resurrection and the life. He's saying, that's my identity. It's who I am. There is life inside of me. And it's a different type of life than anything you've ever seen. I am the resurrection in the life. So Jesus says what you're thinking, even in your best hopes, pales compared to who I am.

2 (14m 7s):

Mm. And if you believe in me, you will

1 (14m 11s):

Live even though you die. And it's not just resurrection at the end, he's saying right. It's that you can rise up now and live with a different kind of life inside of you now. And after you die, you'll still live. That's amazing. He says, that's in me. I am the resurrection at this moment. When they're saying, where were you? Jesus. He say, and I have always been there. I,

2 (14m 35s):

I am the resurrection and the life, but it's too late. Isn't it

1 (14m 43s):

Too late. Lazarus is dead now four days.

2 (14m 49s):

So

1 (14m 50s):

Martha had, had met Jesus on his way to the house and, and they continue onto the house. And when they get there, they bring Mary, the other sister out and they were probably sitting Shivah okay. If you're an Orthodox Jew, you still do this to this day. That when someone dies, they bury that person that day. And then the whole family will sit Shivah for seven days. Meaning they're literally sit on the ground so that they can grieve and

2 (15m 10s):

Mourn together. And

1 (15m 12s):

All of the family, friends, anybody who knows the family will come over and bring like casseroles, right? They will come and sit with that family for the seven days of grieving this whole process. And they have been doing this from day one when they did the burial and the funeral from day to day three. And now they're on day four. There are more than halfway done with these seven days of grieving. So when Mary gets up to go see Jesus, all these friends who had come by and brought those

2 (15m 37s):

Casseroles, go out with Mary to meet Jesus. That's where we pick it up in verse 32.

1 (15m 46s):

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, Lord, if you had been here,

2 (15m 52s):

We've heard that before, my brother would not have died. Same thought

1 (15m 56s):

When Martha had Jesus, you could have prevented this. You could have stopped it, but now it's

2 (15m 60s):

Too late. It's too late. It's over. Right. You know, we, we have

1 (16m 11s):

Things in our lives. When, when the person has grown sick,

2 (16m 14s):

They have died. It's too late, right? It's too late for the friend of mine whose son died this last week. It's too late. It's too late. When we see our

1 (16m 27s):

Country ravished ravaged, or the whole world ravaged by COVID-19

2 (16m 33s):

500,000 plus deaths in our country, two and a half million around the globe. Entire

1 (16m 38s):

Economies destroyed people in poverty.

2 (16m 41s):

It's too late. We see

1 (16m 45s):

That someone goes into some massage parlors in Atlanta.

2 (16m 47s):

Wanna shoot them up. It's too late. Or what happened here in Boulder. It's too late. Verse 33. When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping. He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. Where have you laid him? He asked, come and see Lord. They replied, Jesus wept. My underline that were deeply moved. He was deeply moved

1 (17m 25s):

In the Greek. It's it's one word. And I, I think this is a pretty portrait

2 (17m 29s):

Installation because you could also translate it as he was angry. Indignant, perturbed. It's a word that's often used of animals when they're groaning or growling. Ah, I can everybody grow with me for just a second? Wow. Okay. One, two, three. That's how Jesus is feeling right. He's angry. And I don't think he's angry at Mary and Martha or

1 (18m 1s):

The friends for grieving. That's what they were supposed to be doing. You're supposed to grieve with

2 (18m 4s):

Those who grieve. So you're supposed to do, I think that Jesus is angry at death.

1 (18m 13s):

We live in a world that there is brokenness and sickness

2 (18m 17s):

That bodies do fall apart.

1 (18m 19s):

Our immune systems, aren't strong enough sometimes to fight off the disease. I think Jesus is angry that our world has sin and brokenness and death at all. It's not the way it was supposed to be. And Jesus is angry at that.

2 (18m 31s):

You've been there. Have you been angry at some of the things that you see in Boulder? And this is the anger that Jesus feels at the death of his friend.

1 (18m 42s):

And when he gets to the tomb, that's why he

2 (18m 45s):

Weeps John 11:35, Jesus wept. If you're ever on jeopardy, that's the shortest verse in the entire Bible, Jesus wept. And yet it's so filled with truth. Isn't it? Because Jesus, when he sees his friend dead, when it's too late, tears come down his face, he's driven by the emotion that you and I feel because don't, we cry from the moment

1 (19m 13s):

I was born at 10:45 PM, August 4th, 1987.

2 (19m 16s):

I started crying and I've cried every year of my life since right. And it's not true

1 (19m 22s):

Just cause I was a little baby then. But, but now there are real things to cry about, right?

2 (19m 27s):

There are deaths, there are sadness. There is hurt.

1 (19m 31s):

And there are things in our lives that cause us to cry at every single one of us has them. There is not enough Prozac in the world to stop us from having things to do,

2 (19m 38s):

Try out, right? We have things to cry about in our lives. And Jesus is there with us weeping.

1 (19m 49s):

One of the most amazing things about our faith. It's it sets it apart from all the other faiths in the world is that our God cares so much

2 (19m 57s):

That he doesn't just stand

1 (19m 58s):

Out and watch everything unmoved with a stoic face. But he gets down into a rural

2 (20m 4s):

Human in Jesus Christ and he feels everything that we feel even grief. He feels

1 (20m 14s):

He's moved. He's angry. He sad. He weeps tears streamed down his face. He cries with us. When we say it's too late, it's gone. Things have gotten worse as they can.

2 (20m 26s):

He is crying with us. That's our Jesus. He weeps, he weeps. When the relationship is over, he weeps,

1 (20m 39s):

There's a divorce. He weeps when there's a death, he weeps when they're suffering and pain,

2 (20m 44s):

Jesus weeps with us first 36, then the Jews said, see how he loved him. What some of them said could not. He

1 (20m 55s):

Who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying

2 (21m 1s):

Again. Why didn't you stop at Jesus? It's too late. Now he's four days in the ground. It's too late, but Jesus got angry again. It says. And when he got to the tomb, he ordered

1 (21m 17s):

For them to remove the stone. You see when Lazarus was dead, they would have immediately buried him that day. They would have wrapped him in linen, could put a cloth over his face, light him, lay them down

2 (21m 27s):

In a cave, kind of have like an outcropping

1 (21m 30s):

Built into the cave. And they would have put the body there and they would have taken a big, heavy stone and they would

2 (21m 34s):

Rolled it over. That was the tomb in those days.

1 (21m 40s):

And, and Lazarus had been in this too now for days. So when they get there and Jesus says, okay, just roll the stone away.

2 (21m 47s):

Martha's like, no, no, no, no, no. Jesus has been four days. It'll stink. It'll stink. And the KJV translates it as it stink. If look it up. He stinky because do you know what happens to a body when someone dies, their heart stops beating, right?

1 (22m 12s):

So there's no more blood flowing everywhere. The skin turns pale, the brain stops functioning, the organ stop working. That's why we have to do organ transplants nowadays so quickly,

2 (22m 20s):

Right? Because the organs

1 (22m 23s):

Will fail. They'll stop working. The muscles will stop working. The body is gone and then it will start producing gases and

2 (22m 28s):

It will stink. And in a tomb,

1 (22m 31s):

They would've put some spices in there, but that's like, popery, it's not going to cover up the smell of death as it would have filled up that tomb. So four days

2 (22m 38s):

Now, four days in, she said, roll the stone. And Martha says, no, no, no, it's too late. Way too. Late four days too late. Jesus

1 (22m 51s):

Leave among the Jews of that day, that, that the body would keep the soul for three days after death. Just kind of like the superstition that the soul would live in the body for three days. And then on the fourth day would leave

2 (23m 2s):

Body. So every,

1 (23m 4s):

The one there would have said, okay, maybe there's a small possibility than those first three days. Maybe, you know, we just got the right paddles. Boom. You can shock them back to life

2 (23m 12s):

Maybe. But it's the fourth day. It's wasted

1 (23m 16s):

Too late. Jesus, it's over. It's done finito, Mussolini, right? It's over

2 (23m 23s):

The body. Stinketh and the fat lady sing if it's done. But Jesus says, anyways, roll the stone away. And then Jesus opens his mouth. It says in a loud voice, he calls out Lazarus, Jesus bellows calling his name Lazarus to this man whose ears have stopped functioning, who has no brain to operate at all to this dead man who is way too far gone. Jesus calls Lazarus. And I think in the same way he calls each one of us by name. Did you know that that Jesus knows us.

2 (24m 4s):

He knows our life and what we have gone through. And he speaks directly to each one of us, his voice. He cries out Peter. He cries out to Angelo. Margaret Jesus calls us by name, but that's not it. Jesus says Lazarus, come out to the dead man who can't move, whose organs have stopped functioning, whose body has no power in it. And yet, somehow in that moment, when Jesus calls with his voice, maybe in some miracle, we don't know, but the Lazarus heart starts beating again, pumping blood and maybe the skin started getting color.

2 (24m 49s):

Again, his brain started functioning again and Lazarus now has power in his organs and his muscles. And he gets up for days. Dead Lazarus starts walking out of the tomb, still with the linen wrapped around his legs and a cloth on his face. So that when he emerges from the tomb in front of Mary and Martha Jesus and all of these witnesses, Jesus has to say, well, let's get those clothes off of him. Right? He's alive. Lazarus had risen from the dead by the power of Jesus's voice because Jesus is the resurrection and the life. And he just proved it. You're thinking maybe someday there'll be a heaven out there.

2 (25m 30s):

No, no, no. I am the resurrection in the life. Now, do you believe this Jesus saying to us, do you believe this in verse 40 verse 40, then Jesus said, did I not tell you that? If you believe you will see the glory of God, he showed his glory to me. He showed his glory in its fullness that he has this power. And then he has that power for you and me as well. He is the resurrection and the life. The maze, the most amazing thing is it seemed way too far gone, right? There was death. It was over.

2 (26m 10s):

Everything was done. That's when Jesus went to work, isn't it. When theologian, Frederick Beachner says resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing. When we believe in Jesus, even when it's way past on four days pass gone, it's not too late for Jesus to work. He has that kind of power. And it's in that same power that he calls to us, calling us to rise up because some of us are still living in these tombs. The life that we have, we look around and it's, stinketh, we're suffering. We're worried, we're angry. We're dealing with depression and anxiety. And Jesus sees that and he wants us to rise up no matter what we're going through.

2 (26m 51s):

He's not saying our life. Isn't hard. He knows it. In fact, that's why Jesus came down to live in the hardship of our life and show us that he cares and that he loves us and that he has a glory and a power that can overcome everything. And that's why we can rise up. One of the most amazing things about this encounter. And it says this at the beginning of the chapter that Jesus knew when he went there to Bethany, that it would mean people would try to kill him. This is the last miracle that's ever recorded in the gospel of John, because it tells us in the last half of this chapter, that right after this people started plotting to kill Jesus.

2 (27m 32s):

They had a plan. We don't want Jesus anymore. He's he's making too many headlines. He's, he's going to take away our power. The Romans are going to get mad. We've got to kill him. That was their plan. And the very next time that Jesus wept do you know, when it was released, the scriptures tell us the next time he wept was when he was in the garden. On that Thursday night, he'd shared a meal with his friends, his 12 disciples. And then he went into the garden to stay up all night and pray. And while he was in there, it says that he, his words where my soul is overwhelmed to the point of death. And it says he wept even tears of blood. He cried so hard there because he knew what was coming.

2 (28m 15s):

I wonder if, when he was there with Lazarus and it says that Jesus wept, he knew what was coming to him, that when he disrupted this funeral, it was going to be his own. Then when he stopped death, it meant that he would die. So when Jesus cried that night in the garden, he knew, he just knew somehow that Judas would betray him. One of his closest friends would sell them out for 30 pieces of silver, silver, that the soldiers would come and they would arrest Jesus that they would put them up with a sham of a trial where people would come and give false accusations against him bringing in justice. And even though nothing was found against him, they still beat him. They whipped him, give him 39 lashes so that he was weak and bloody.

2 (28m 59s):

And then when they sentenced him to death by crucifixion, he was too weak to carry his cross and Simon, a man from North Africa, they had him come help. Jesus carry the cross because they exiled these people outside the city limits saying you're no longer one of us. And they sent Jesus out onto the Hill, cold called Golgotha. And they nailed him to the cross, hung him up. And they're in the middle Eastern sun for hours. He baked as he slowly suffocated. Wonder if that Jesus knew that was coming, but he was willing to face that to show his glory. And he was willing to do that because he knew that when he died on the cross, the perfect man, the perfect God, man, something powerful

1 (29m 42s):

Would happen and his glory would be revealed

2 (29m 44s):

Again. And when Jesus breathed his last in front of all those

1 (29m 49s):

Witnesses and a Roman soldier took a spear just to make sure he was dead in Jackson in his side, he was then they took down his body and they wrapped it in linen cloth. But put a cloth over his face, light him in the tomb of Joseph of air mafia, rich man. And they rolled a big heavy stone in front of her.

2 (30m 7s):

It was too late, right? All hope was lost. The savior of the world is dead.

1 (30m 15s):

The disciples were dismayed and had run for their lives. They weren't there. Nobody was there on that Friday night

2 (30m 21s):

At hopeless Friday night, no one was there on Saturday, either as Jesus.

1 (30m 26s):

We know of course had no brain activity. The heart stopped beating the skin turns pale. The organ stopped working the muscles fail. And there was Jesus's body

2 (30m 34s):

On Saturday, but not on Sunday. On Sunday, when the women went to the tomb, the stone wasn't there anymore. Somehow

1 (30m 46s):

By the power of God, the stone had rolled away. And when they went into the tomb to check it out, there was no body either. There was only the linen cloth neatly, folded, and left there. Then they freaked out. They w what's going on here, what's happening. But then Jesus appeared to Mary, a different Mary. She saw him and talked to them. Jesus appeared to Peter and 10 of the disciples. At one time they saw him. It was their savior that Jesus, that they knew and loved was a life. And Thomas wasn't there with them. And he said, no, no, no, it's too hard to believe. I can't believe that unless I see it for myself until Jesus appeared to Thomas to, and Thomas got to feel the holes and Jesus' hands and feet inside.

1 (31m 29s):

And he knew this was really Jesus. Really again, here in the flesh that he had risen from the dead. He had the resurrection and the life in his body again. And Jesus appeared to over 500 people over a span of 40 days. It's written down in our four gospel accounts. We have eyewitness accounts. We have others writing

down on behalf of eyewitnesses, not only in the four accounts of the gospels, but through from Paul and some of the other new Testament writers, they all saw it. And then they gave their lives to tell other people that Jesus is the resurrection in the life

2 (31m 59s):

They believed. And they want us to believe as well. Because when we believe we too can rise up, we too can rise up. So as, as the band comes up, I want

1 (32m 17s):

Us to think about our own lives. Sometimes it is so hard

2 (32m 19s):

To believe, right? It's hard to,

1 (32m 21s):

It's difficult. We're we're way past gone. And things have gotten way worse than we thought they ever would. But no matter how bad things are, even if it's four days too late,

2 (32m 31s):

Jesus is still the resurrection in the life.

1 (32m 34s):

And I know because of that in my own family,

2 (32m 37s):

We can rise up with my dad's diagnosis. He

0 (32m 40s):

Is a believer and he is filled with hope. Then I know for the couple awaiting and adoption might seem like forever. We don't know what's going to happen or when it's ever going to end, but they can rise up and have hope for the future that God has for them. For the brother that cares about his drug addicted brother. He has hope that God can still turn things around. God can still redeem even the worst of us. Then when we suffer and struggle, when there's death and sickness, we can rise up. So what I want you to do right now is please just stand up. I want you to rise up together as a church. If you're watching online rise up as well, Jesus is calling us. He's calling us by name. He's asking us to rise up, to come out of the tomb we're living in.

0 (33m 25s):

So if you're here and you've been suffering, if you've been struggling recently, you've had a job loss or financial difficulties. It's time to up. If you yourself, if you're watching online and are sick, you can rise up. If

you're caring for someone who is sick, you can rise up. Can we say that together? Rise up. Let's do it again. Rise up. It's time to rise up. If you're here with anxiety, rise up, depression, rise up. If you are struggling and suffering, whatever it is, it's time to rise up. That person you're caring for gets sick. We rise up.

0 (34m 5s):

If they die, we rise up. If we die, we too will rise up. Okay. Do you believe this? Jesus says I am the resurrection and the life. I am the resurrection. Jesus, who he is. His identity gives us that power. When we believe in him, that's what he wants. Just believe in me. That's all it takes. Put your faith in me. I know it's hard to believe Jesus says, but I am the resurrection and the life. I pray over this church. These people who are watching online all over the state country and world, Lord God, I pray that you'd give us the strength to rise up when it's hard to believe when we think there's no more hope, help us to rise up again, this life and in the one to come eyes closed and heads bowed.

0 (34m 52s):

There are some of you here who have never believed in Jesus Christ. And maybe today is today. Some of you are even saying, ah, I don't know, but I want it to be true. If that's you, today is the day to put your faith in Jesus to believe in his name. Cause that's all it takes to receive that life. Now, the resurrection life and the life in the age to come as well. You should receive it. So I'm going to give you a chance to say this prayer and what we do here is if you're already a believer in Jesus Christ. I want you to say this prayer repeating after me out loud. And then if it's your first time to say this prayer, you're going to say two. Okay? We do that with eyes closed. Let's repeat this prayer after me, dear God. Thank you for loving me.

0 (35m 33s):

I'm a sinner. I need a savior. Forgive me. Save me. I believe that Jesus is Lord. I believe Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Fill me with your Holy spirit. Help me to rise up and follow you with eyes still closed. You said that prayer for the first time and meant it. You believe in Jesus Christ today. I want you to just slip your hand in the air. Praise God. We just want to celebrate with you. Praise God. If you're here in person or online, praise, God just go to arise.

0 (36m 16s):

denver.com/connect. And if you fill out the form, if you click, when it says I started following Jesus, I'm going to send you a free book. Okay? I just want to encourage you, pray for you and just bless you because we all get to celebrate that today. One more, three more, however many more resurrections, Lord God, we celebrate that. And Lord God, we just stand here together. We have risen up as a church, as a people, Lord God, we are rising up as the kingdom of God today, all across the world. As people celebrate the resurrection. We're so grateful Jesus, that you proved your power through Lazarus and you prove that even more. When you conquered over death once and for all on the cross, Lord God, we put our faith in you.

0 (36m 57s):

We believe in you. And we know that we can rise up right now and we will rise up on the last day as well.
Thank you in Jesus name. Amen.