



Life Group Notes: 'The Easter Plot'

Tuesday 6th April 2021

READ THESE VERSES TOGETHER:

John 11:43-38 & 53:

43a Jesus '...cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." **44a** The man who had died came out... **45** Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and seen what he did, believed in him, **46** but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. **47** So the chief priests and Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man [*Jesus*] performs many signs. **48** If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

53 So from that day on they made plans to put him to death. (*Full reading: John 11:38-54*).

DISCUSSION POINTS:

- 1) **God's pattern is always greater than the pause** – v44 *"The man who had died came out..."*
 - Religion loses sight of the fact that Jesus re-started a dead man's heart. A strong smell of death and decay (v38-40) was now a life restored. God is bigger than our weariness and past mistakes! Are there any areas of your life that you feel have been buried or died that should be alive? Where do you need God to spiritually re-start your heart with hope for the future?
- 2) **God's plan is greater than the enemy's plot** – v50 *Caiaphas, the high priest, said: "...it is better for you that one man should die for the people..."*
 - God used the very person who planned to kill Jesus to prophesy and confirm his plan! Whatever the enemy plans, God can turn it around to fulfill his overall plan. How does this truth give you hope in God's ability to change your difficult situations?
- 3) **God's protection is greater than the enemy's parameters** – v54 *"Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews..."*
 - Jesus withdrew to a quiet place, away from public ministry. A wilderness season does not change God's plan. Sometimes in his wisdom he hides and protects us. God's ultimate wisdom is in his perfect timing. How does this change your perspective today?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:

- Pray that we will stay in step with Holy Spirit's pattern and rhythm for our lives.
- Pray that God will increase our trust in him of his greater purpose in our lives.
- Thank God for His wisdom and protection in our lives and patience in his perfect timing.