

**God in Search of Man**  
**Remember your whispers – John 11:1-44**

**Introduction:**

1. *The sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. —John 10:3*
2. What does a shepherd see when he looks over his sheep?
3. For the Great Shepherd every face is unique
4. *Isa. 49:16 I have written your name on my hand*
5. What about you today? What are the challenges you are facing?
6. *Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you”*
7. *Psalms 139:13-14 “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made”*
8. Abraham Herschel said *“To the Jewish mind, the understanding of God is achieved by sensing the living acts of His concern, to His dynamic attentiveness to man. We speak not of His goodness in general but of His compassion for the individual man in a particular situation”*
9. Whatever your circumstance – whatever situation you might find yourself in God knows
10. *All too often we distill the Bible, which is bursting with life, drama, and tension, to a series of principles which is like trying to reduce a living person to a diagram*
11. The Holy Spirit leaves no footprints.
12. Story of hearing

**Out of the grave:**

1. *John 11* deals with Lazarus being raised from the dead
2. Much of the text centers around two sisters – Mary and Martha
3. Their brother was sick unto death so they sent word to Jesus
4. But Jesus does not come at their bidding and Lazarus dies
5. All of a sudden Jesus announces they would be going to Bethany, the home of the two sisters
6. Thomas the pessimist says *“let’s all go, so we can die with Him” (John 11:16)*
7. By the time they got to Bethany Lazarus had been dead for four days
8. I wonder what Lazarus’ first words were when he came out of the grave

**The Power of Life:**

1. I want to talk a little about death – not the physical kind
2. Maybe it is that something died – relationship / marriage / a living death
3. I want you to remember your whispers
4. I want you to know that it breaks my heart to know that you are going through stuff – that you are in pain – for whatever reason
5. You don’t have to do it in isolation
6. God has not forgotten you
7. I believe God is up to something in this church
8. Remember those whispers

### Hearing us:

1. Notice the bible says He stayed two more days
2. I must be honest, there are times when I question God
3. **John 11:7-14**
  - *“let us go to Judea again...”*
  - *“our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up...”*
  - *“Lazarus is dead ...”*
4. We do not like to talk about painful things
5. Jesus said to Thomas **“touch Me”**
6. The issue of death is a painful thing:
  - when there is a dream that dies
  - when there is something you have poured your life out for and it comes to an end
7. Usually when God allows something to die it is because He will cause it to live again or He will birth something new
8. Some people who experienced this:
  - Jacob became Israel
  - Saul became Paul
  - David in the cave

### Point of Reference:

1. When you are in the middle of something there is a tendency to focus on the circumstance to get consumed by what is going on – to be consumed with what is happening around us.
2. **John 11:17-27**
  - *“so when Jesus came He found that he had already been the tomb for four days”*
  - *“Jesus said to her ‘your brother will rise again’”*
  - *“Martha said to Him ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day’”*
3. He made that declaration in the midst of her circumstances
4. He was about to change her point of reference

### Our Response:

1. How will you respond to God when we have no previous point of reference?
2. How will we respond to him as He begins to do something new in our lives?
3. Jesus said **“I am the resurrection and the life”**
4. Let me ask you this:
  - Will you be open to helping people to be restored?
  - Could it be that you feel something has died inside of you – so how will you respond to him this morning?
  - Will you be open to embrace a revelation of Jesus so He can bring life to that dream – to that whisper?
5. Incident on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 at the Pentagon
6. Listen for the voice and walk towards the light
7. Say this morning **“come Jesus come”**