



Can You See It? Part 2

TITLE

Empower People

WORD

Series Text: John 4:34-38

John 11:38-44 “Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.” Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?” So, they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.” Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!” *NLT*

- **Jesus arrives at the tomb**
 - Jesus is not intimidated by dead situations
 - Like Lazarus, we were once dead in a tomb (tomb representing our sin) Vs. 38
 - *Ephesians 2:1* “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins” *NKJV*
- **Take away the stone**
 - The stone represents the law
 - *Exodus 31:18* “And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.” *NKJV*
 - *Colossians 2:13-15* “You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.” *NLT*
- **Jesus called Lazarus’ name**
 - Jesus is calling your name, not your situation, problem or your mistake
 - When Jesus calls you, He calls you to empower you to Live

- When he calls you, he calls you up and out of death and darkness and destruction
- **Lazarus came out bound in grave clothes**
 - He is alive but still bound up (saved but struggling)
 - John 8:36 “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” *NIV*
 - Galatians 5:1 “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” *NIV*
 - Freedom means the opportunity to be what we never thought we would be - Daniel J. Boorstin
 - “For, to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.” - Nelson Mandela
 - **Grave clothes**
 - Hurts from trauma - from being exposed to things we weren’t able to handle
 - Habits that have caused addictions and destructive cycles and patterns
 - Pain from losses and failures
 - Past history that isn’t pretty
 - People - dysfunctional relationships
 - Issues - beliefs and fears examples: Insecurity, poverty mindset, low self-esteem, depression etc.
- **Jesus Commands them to let him go!**

I. Ways That Freedom Comes

A. Freedom comes from the word of God

- John 8:32 “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” *NKJV*

B. Freedom comes from prayer

- Psalms 34:4 “I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears.” *NLT*

C. Freedom comes through the anointing

- Isaiah 10:27 “And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.” *KJV*

D. Freedom comes through community

- Challenge - Martha told Jesus, “There is a terrible smell.” We have to be willing to deal with the inconvenience of someone else’s liberation
- Grave clothes come off in community

II. To Empower People to Live in Freedom

A. *Be willing to share in someone else's burden*

- Galatians 6:1-3 "Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important." *NLT*

B. *Be safe place for someone else's struggle*

- James 5:16 "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." *NLT*

C. *Be concerned enough to ask "how can I help"*

- Romans 15:1 "Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" *MSG*