

Some 60 years ago Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote shortly before his execution
The following lines:

Death stepped into our midst and we have to think about itif we want
or notwe have to think about it ... two things have become important for
me there is a death outside of me and there is a death inside of me.

(translated and paraphrased by Eckart)

Lazarus, come out ...!

I wonder what Lazarus must have felt a few days before he died ...?
Did he think about eternal life? Did he think that Jesus would come to cure
and heal him? Was he hoping for a miracle? Had he resigned into dying?
Had he made peace with his death?

I could see him having all of those thoughts and a few more I can not think
off ... but I very much doubt that it occurred to him that he might die for a
few days and then be resurrected ...

And that is exactly what our faith tells us is going to happen to us ...
When we die we will be resurrected by Christ to be with God to be part of
the communion of Saints, the ones that have gone before us.

Now there is a slight difference between Lazarus and most other people who
die Lazarus was resurrected into this lifetime ... we usually think of
being resurrected into the next lifetime .. into the communion of the Saints.
... into a place where “death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain
will be no more; where God will wipe away every tear from our eyes ..
where he will give water to the thirsty, as a gift from the spring of the water
of life ...” (2. Reading/Rev21:1-6a)

Now, resurrection and death do not only occur on the grand scale .. at the
end of our lifetime here ... it also occurs on the smaller scale .. and mostly
not quite as dramatic as for Lazarus.

There is the death of hope and dreams .. it can happen when we get older
...we realize that what we hoped for, dreamed of .. we might not get.
We might not get the dream job we always hoped for. We might not find the
partner we always dreamed about. We might not get what we were so much
hoping for.

There is the death of relationships – Maine is famous for all the siblings who haven't spoken to each other in decades.....because ????- no one knows anymore!

There are marriages that break and die ... and all the expectations and hopes die to.

There is the death in retirement, the job is over ..what now?.... when we suddenly find that nothing fulfills us ... (there is only so much golf one can play).

Death and resurrection is all around us and I think an important part of life. Sometimes though we get stuck in the aftermath of Death and just don't seem to get to the resurrection part.

Instead of finding new hopes and dreams, new relationships and partners, new houses, jobs or meaning for our life; we get stuck! Nothing seems to move.

Looking closer at the Lazarus story .. it is in two ways that Jesus solves the situation. Yes he does the resurrecting .. the big one and all the small ones in our lives; but he also leaves instructions in how to deal with whatever was/is/will be resurrected!

Unbind him .. and let him go .. is what Jesus instructs the people to do. And I think this is our question, for us and for every one we meet. How do we unbind ourselves and others? How do we get unstuck? How do we let ourselves and others go to where Christ's resurrection leads us to.

So often in life we bind ourselves with words and thoughts like:

I am not good enough ... I am not worthyI can't .. I am too old ..and the likes

So often past experiences prevent us from trusting and living .. because we dread the pain of disappointment ...we fear and don't love...

All of this and so much more can and is resurrected in Christ. That is God's job ... to find, give and create resurrection in the large and in the small

As sure as there is Resurrection through Christ, as sure there is resurrection every single day! Every single day we are asked by God to unbind God's gifts to us – may they be small or large – and let them go. Every day God is willing to wipe away our tears and to resurrect us into his Love!

As long as we avoid to think about death .. the large one and all the smaller ones we avoid resurrection ... we don't take advantage what God has to offer... and that is sad .. that is what I think disturbed Jesus in the story ...

Jesus became Christ so that there is always resurrection; always a way to get unstuck; always new beginnings!

Almighty God .. help us with the unbinding and letting go! Let us feel the resurrection!