



context:

line by line:

application:

Eternity means your desires are _____

Final Destination

John 11: 21-26



study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

As people on this earth, we are very curious about "what's next." Something in us tells us that our *final destination* does in fact matter, because it has major implications for what our lives mean now.

In this series, we are going to look as thoroughly as we can at what Jesus says about those questions. Today the question is this: What is that *something* in us that desires things to be different, the mess of life to be cleaned up, and for this life not to be the end? What does it mean?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's your memory of how you thought about heaven or eternity as a kid?
2. Have you ever witnessed someone dying? Beyond the sadness of losing those we care about, how has that experience shaped your view of eternity?
3. Talk about a time when you longed for God to do something in your life. Is there a time when you had a big "if only" like Martha does in John 11:21?
4. **Read together the whole Lazarus story (John 11:17-37); then focus back on 21-26.** What does this story teach you about the character of Jesus?
5. Do you see yourself more like busy Martha who runs to Jesus when she hears he's there, or like the more sensitive Mary who waits at the house? They both say the same thing to Jesus and Jesus leads them virtually to the same place: thinking about eternity and who he is.
6. **Read together Ecclesiastes 3:11.** Do you see the reality of this statement? If not, what makes it hard to believe?
7. Randy Alcorn has said the following in his very helpful book, *Heaven: When I anticipate my first glimpse of Heaven, I remember the first time I went snorkeling. I saw countless fish of every shape, size, and color. And just when I thought I'd seen the most beautiful fish, along came another even more striking. Etched in my memory is a certain sound—the sound of a gasp going through my rubber snorkel as my eyes were opened to that breathtaking underwater world.*
 - Does that illustration help you in your understanding of what the eternity Jesus is referring to might be like?

Next week we start talking about Heaven!

MOVING FORWARD

Our greatest regrets in life can be, and will be, reversed if we follow Jesus into eternity. The truth of what the Bible says about what's next is future focused, not stuck in the past. And because that truth is so amazing and worthy, it brings the future forward to our lives right now, and begins to make all the difference in the world.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:24-25 (NIV)