

1. When Jesus cries out, “Lazarus, come out!” Lazarus is “awakened” from death and comes out of his grave.
 - a. If you were Lazarus, why would you welcome Jesus’ command? Why would you want to dismiss Jesus’ command?
 - b. Now, do you welcome Jesus’ command and encourage others to welcome Jesus’ command, or do you dismiss his command?
 - c. When Jesus cries out to you, what might Jesus want to awaken you from? What may be keeping you “in the dark” or away from abundant life?
2. “When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping...” In this scene, in what role do you see yourself: Jesus? Mary or Martha? The Jews accompanying the sisters? Lazarus? Why?
3. “The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’”
 - a. What would be good reasons to obey Jesus’ command?
 - b. What would be reasonable rationale not to obey Jesus’ command?
 - c. When have you experienced a hopeless situation in which someone or something was “unbound” and brought into more abundant living?



*Touching heaven, changing earth
with head, heart and hands*

**Sunday, April 2, 2017
John 11:32-45**

Come Out

Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”
—John 11:43

Come out, you who have been entombed in silence, in fear, in condemnation, come out!
Come out to the one who loves you.
You who are afraid for your life, who are afraid of your life, you who are ashamed, you who have been bound, come out into your own life!
You who have been told you’re unworthy, you who are afraid of failing, come out into your whole life.
You who are wounded and grieving, who are hopeless or depressed, you who wonder if you’ll ever live deeply, come out into life’s fullness.
You who are well defended in your fortresses, in armor, in costumes, come out.
Gays and abuse victims, transgender and shy, gifted and doubtful, queer and other, you can come out.
Come out of your closets, out of hiding, out of exile, out of the wilderness.
You have a place, and the tomb is not it.
The One Who Weeps for You calls to you.
You are wanted. You are mourned.
Come out.
And you who have rolled the great stones over other people’s lives, roll them back. Stand aside.
Never mind the stench.
Call to them. Open your arms.
Unbind them.
Let them go.

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