

Living a Great Life!  
Part #1 – Joining Jesus on His Mission  
Sunday September 7, 2008  
Audio Available at <http://www.kingstreet.org/audio/>

A fable of 6 blind men and one elephant

“Jesus wept.” [John 11:35]

Q – Why did he weep?

**Text:** John 11:38-44 [NIV]

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. **“Take away the stone,”** he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, **“Lazarus, come out!”** The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, **“Take off the grave clothes** and let him go.”

***The Mission of Jesus must be the Mission of the Church***

Directive #1 - **“Take away the stone”** [V-39]

Stones that must be moved ...

- ◆ A stone of mistrust
- ◆ A stone of judgment
- ◆ A stone of religion
- ◆ A stone of indifference
- ◆ A stone of irrelevance

The gospel of the 'open door' – Who are we holding the door open for?

Directive #2 - **“Lazarus, come out”** [V-43]

A voice that must be heard ...

- ◆ A voice that brings life
- ◆ A voice that responds to other voices
- ◆ A voice that is rooted in mystery

Directive #3 - **“Take off the grave clothes ...”** [V-44]

Grave clothes that MUST come off ...

***Q – Why doesn't Jesus just speak to the grave clothes and have them fall away?***

◆ Who disciplined you? (We need help in order to remove our grave clothes)

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◆ Who are you discipling? (Others need help in order to go free)

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Jesus model of discipleship: He taught the crowd, but he related to his disciples. Discipleship is a relational activity!