

# Rise Up; John 11:41-44

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1. Choices.
  - a. The path of least resistance.
    - i. This is the way we usually make our choices.
    - ii. “How can I get what I want with the least effort.”
    - iii. We are so picky about our jobs that we would rather be unemployed than work and expend too much effort.
  - b. Comfortable.
    - i. We get comfortable with our choices and how we make them.
    - ii. We find ourselves in positions that we think are inescapable.
    - iii. We think we are “too lost.”

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2. Too lost.
  - a. “Safe and sound, stuck in the ground, too lost to be found.”
  - b. The first verse of this hymn describes humanity. “In the dark and all alone, growing comfortable. Are you too scared to move and walk out of this tomb?”

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- c. This world is a tomb!
  - i. We are trapped, captive, and imprisoned by darkness-steeped behaviors.
  - ii. Romans 7:23: “but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.”
  - iii. John 3:19: “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”
  - iv. We’ve grown comfortable in our selfish lives and don’t want to move on.
  - v. We are content with our choices, following the path of least resistance.
  - vi. The sooner we recognize the world for the tomb it is, the quicker we can decide to step out.
- vii. James 4:4: “You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
- viii. This world is doomed to destruction; it and everything in it.
- ix. 2 Peter 3:10: “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

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- d. We have fallen prey to the Father of Lies.
  - i. We are buried underneath the lies that we believe.
  - ii. John 8:44: “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
  - iii. He is right there whispering in your ear.
    1. “You are not good enough.”
    2. “You cannot change.”

3. "It is too hard."
4. "You will always behave this way."
5. "It is a waste of effort; you will just fall back into your old habits."
6. But He is the Father of Lies!
- iv. He lied to Eve, tempting her to eat the fruit.
  1. Genesis 3:2–4: "And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' " But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."
  2. He lies to us, tempting us into sinful behaviors.
  3. James 1:14–15: "But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."
  - e. We are not too lost; we can walk out!

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3. Walk out.
  - a. Mary
    - i. All four gospels tell us about Mary Magdalene.
      1. There was a woman who brought a costly jar of oil.
      2. Luke 7:36–38: "One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment."
      3. John tells us it was Mary Magdalene in John 12:1-8.
      4. Luke tells us that Mary is the woman from whom He had cast out seven demons.
      5. Luke 8:1–2: "Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,"
      6. It is easy to see Mary crying tears of joy, washing Jesus' filthy feet with her hair, and anointing him with oil.

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- ii. The Chosen takes some artistic license in their retelling of Jesus casting out the demons.
  1. It is a beautiful scene where the demons rail at Jesus. Jesus quotes Isaiah.
  2. Isaiah 43:1: "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

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- b. We're dead (in our trespasses and sins)! We're in the tomb, and Jesus is calling us by name!
  - i. I cannot imagine Paul's agony and suffering while praying and fasting for three days.
  - ii. Even though he was blind, he saw that he was killing God's people.
  - iii. Even though he was blind, he saw he was fighting against God.
  - iv. Those must have been the three most challenging days of his life! (Acts 9:9)
  - v. Jesus was calling Saul out of the tomb!

vi. Acts 22:16: “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.”

c. “He’s calling us to walk out of the dark. He’s giving us new resurrected hearts.”

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4. Rise up.

a. Our old life does not matter! We are never “too lost!”

b. “Come on and rise up! Take a breath. You’re alive now. Can’t you hear the voice of Jesus calling us out from the grave like Lazarus?”

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c. Ephesians 2:1: “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins”

d. Ephesians 2:4–6: “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”

e. Rise up!