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South Eastern Minnesota  
Sermon Starters for November 2009

November 1, 2009 – John 11:32-44

It is true for us that we don't quite know how to deal with this Jesus character. After all, death is death. It is one of those defined things in our life that we can't avoid. Yet, here is Jesus, raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. Jesus is like that – indefinable and breaking boundaries in our lives. I have always thought that last statement from Jesus in verse 44 is the key to this story – *“Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”*

Sometimes, we leave very little space for new events or new ways of doing things. We form early on our sense of generosity in our lives. How far are we willing to go in reaching out in mission to help others? How generous are we going to be with our time, our abilities our resources?

Jesus did a new thing in this story of Lazarus – he raised him from the dead. In the Revelation 21 text, verse 5 we again hear this, *“I am making everything new!”* In our Christian lives, we are challenged again and again by Jesus to be open to new ways of doing things, including our expression of generosity and our own personal stewardship. So be open to our Savior's statement for us – “take off the grave clothes” and be open to the excitement of new generosity and freedom in our lives.



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