



The Lazarus Life: My Journey of Transformation

A Study Guide for Individual and Small Group Discussion of the Sermon Series

Chapter Five

(Week 5 – February 1)

THE STENCH OF TRANSFORMATION:

The Messy Realities of Spiritual Change

Key Concepts

- ✚ Sometimes, transformation stinks.
- ✚ Many people don't know this and so they knowingly or unknowingly reject the person in the midst of transformation.
- ✚ True transformation happens when we expose the stench of our sins and shames to God.
- ✚ Even when others turn away, Jesus stays with us.

Individual or Group Questions

1. In the story of Lazarus, how did Martha want change to progress a certain way? Consider how she acted before and after Jesus arrived. In each instance, what did Jesus do instead?
2. Think about the personal tomb you described earlier in Chapter Three, Question #6. Or choose another difficulty that entombs you. Imagine the circumstances when Jesus calls you to emerge from this tomb. Ideally, how would you like this to happen?
3. If you emerge from your tomb with a stench, what do you fear about the circumstances? Where would you be? Who would know? What might occur?
4. Now dig deeper. What do you fear the tomb's stench might reveal about you?
5. The author uncovers this uncomfortable fact: "Something deeper than is visible to the eye is causing us to fall into the same habits again and again." At this point, do you understand what core needs cause you to repeat sins and habits, keeping yourself sealed in a tomb? Explain your answer.
6. As you emerge from your tomb, how could you prepare yourself for the possible rejection from some people?
7. We all need a "safe place" to emerge from our tombs. For you, what would characterize this safe place? Where could you find it, or create it for yourself?