



# ***The Lazarus Life: My Journey of Transformation***

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

### **Chapter Eight**

(Week 7 - February 15)

#### **REMOVING THE GRAVECLOTHES:**

#### ***Embracing the Help of a Loving Community***

##### **Key Concepts**

- ✚ We need others to help us in the process of transformation.
- ✚ We cannot expect community to give what only Jesus can give.
- ✚ Yet Jesus did not do what community is created to do.
- ✚ A transformational community is a resurrected community.

##### **Individual or Group Questions**

1. Do you fear taking off any of your graveclothes? Why, or why not?
2. What would make you feel like someone yanked off your graveclothes? Why would you feel this way?
3. If you're part of a support group, how can you develop these qualities within this community? If you don't belong to a group, how can you develop these qualities in yourself?
  - ✚ Safety
  - ✚ Sharing stories
  - ✚ Grace
  - ✚ Hospitality
  - ✚ Acceptance
4. Focus on one of your graveclothes, perhaps the "cloth" that bothers you most. What would be a first step toward unraveling it?
5. If you're ready, offer the following prayer to God. If you're in a group, the members might want to pray it aloud together.

*A PRAYER FOR A RESURRECTED COMMUNITY: Jesus, please don't send me friends who will hold their noses when they smell my graveclothes! Give me people who know the stink and still love me. Send me people who will not cause greater pain by ripping at my graveclothes but will lovingly unbind me. Show me people who can get me to Jesus. Reveal to me compassionate hearts to understand me, loving ears to listen to me, truthful tongues and yet lips of grace. Let me do the same for them. Show me yourself in other people who are more like you than like me, people who marvel at your power of transformation and kneel at Your feet and not my own. Give me friends to make me laugh and friends who know my tears are sacred. Give me Jesus in the flesh even as You remind me that only through Jesus will I be transformed. Amen.*