**Generosity**

Week 2 Preaching Resources

**Scripture:** John 11:1-44

**Focus:** When a miracle doesn’t happen, God isn’t done yet.

**Me:** Tell a story about a time when you felt that God was absent. This is an opportunity to be appropriately vulnerable. You might start with, “Let me tell you about a time that God didn’t perform the miracle I had prayed for…”

**We:** Begin by asking: “Have you ever felt like God could have performed a miracle, but didn’t?” This is a great time to introduce hurricane recovery. Before the 2017 hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, the people were praying for safety and security. Still there were deaths, loss of home, power and more. In our world there are many circumstances when it feels as though God doesn’t hear our prayers or catch our tears.

**God:** Transition by saying something like: “Scripture promises us that God is present.” Here are 3 points you might use:

1. The women do ask Jesus, “Where were you?”
2. Jesus is the resurrection and the life.
3. The community comes together and participates in new life. *(Jesus’ command is to unbind Lazarus)*

**You:** This is the part where you go right at practical application. Trust in God, and that God is present at all times. God comes and grieves with us but God doesn’t just leave us grieving. When a miracle doesn’t happen, God isn’t done yet!

**We:** Here’s where you go past personal application and speak to community application and working together. Jesus promises resurrection now, and we have a role. The people unbound Lazarus. We’re called to come together with those who are grieving, to be present and point to God’s faithfulness. Share an example of new life that has come from a time of grieving or desperation. You might share about A Future With Hope, which raised $17 million and rebuilt over 250 houses in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. You might share a congregational example of a time when there were challenges or loss but the congregation came together and experienced God do a new thing. We are called to be witnesses to the resurrected life God has in store for us when we give generously to unbind our sisters and brothers.