

March 22, 2026

The Redemption Road

Psalm 130; John 11:1–4, 39–45

“Hope in the Lord... with him is great power to redeem” (Psalm 130:7)

“When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out...Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” (John 11:43-44)

There are moments in life when it feels as if the bottom drops out—when bad news strikes, grief weighs heavily due to the loss of loved ones, seasons when God seems silent, when the future looks uncertain, and when hope seems distant. Scripture refers to these moments as “the depths.” Interestingly, these are often the places where God begins His greatest work.

Psalm 130 and John 11 speak directly to these seasons. They remind us that God does some of His best work in the places where we feel weakest. Psalm 130 and John 11 show us that Redemption Road always begins in the dark but never ends there.

Redemption Road Begins in the Depths (Psalm 130:1–2). “Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord.” The psalmist isn’t whispering a prayer—he is crying out from a place of desperation. And that’s where redemption starts: not when we have it together, but when we are honest about where we are. Some of us know those depths well—the depth of grief, disappointment, and of unanswered prayers. The good news is this: God hears cries from the depths. He is not distant. He is not indifferent. Redemption Road begins right where you are.

Redemption Road Is Built on God’s Mercy; God’s Mercy Carries Us (Psalm 130:3–4) “If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, who could stand? We often hold onto memories—some joyful, some painful. Regrets can become more vivid with age. But the psalmist reminds us that God’s mercy is greater than our mistakes. You don’t walk Redemption Road because you’ve lived a perfect life. You walk it because God is faithful, and His forgiveness is complete.

If redemption depended on our goodness, none of us would qualify. But redemption depends on God’s mercy, and His mercy never runs out: “They are new every morning” (Lamentations 3:23). The psalmist says God’s forgiveness leads to reverence, not fear. When you realize God forgives completely, you do not run from Him; you run to Him.

Redemption Road Requires Waiting and Trusting (Psalm 130:5–6). “I wait for the Lord... more than watchmen wait for the morning.” Watchmen cannot make the sun rise; they must trust that it will. This is what waiting on God looks like. It is not a passive act; rather, it is filled with hope and expectation. It involves believing that God is not finished with our story. Many of us are currently in a season of waiting. You are praying, hoping, and watching. And God assures us, “Hold on. Morning is coming.”

Redemption Road Leads to Full Redemption (Psalm 130:7–8). “With the Lord is unfailing love, and with Him is full redemption.” Not partial redemption. Not temporary relief. Full redemption. God does not just pull you out of the pit—He restores what the pit tried to steal.

That promise sets the stage for John 11, where redemption is not just an idea, it is a person as Jesus steps onto Redemption Road (John 11:1–4). When Jesus hears that Lazarus is sick, He proclaims, “This sickness will not end in death... it is for God’s glory.” Here, Jesus redefines the crisis. What appears to be the end is actually the beginning of God’s redemptive work. Redemption Road is not a path where God avoids pain; rather, it is where God transforms it.

Redemption Road passes through the tomb as Jesus faces the tomb with us (John 11:39–40). At the tomb, Jesus says, “Take away the stone.” Martha protests: “Lord, by this time there is a stench.” This is where many of us hesitate. We want resurrection, but we do not want the stone to be rolled away. We want God to redeem, but we fear what will be exposed. Jesus answers, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” **Faith does not deny reality. Faith trusts that God’s reality is greater than ours.**

“Take away the stone” invites us to embrace possibility, transformation, grace, and forgiveness. What stones prevent people from hearing the call to life and building community? Paul teaches that the flesh represents that stone, urging us **to be unbound from traditions that no longer serve us and lean into traditions that enliven our spirits.** We are called to be the sign that God is at work in the world, the evidence that redemption is possible, and serving as life-givers on the path of transformation. **We are called to travel the redemption road.**

Redemption Road Ends in Resurrection—both now and forever. (John 11:41–45). Jesus calls Lazarus by name: “Lazarus, come out!” And the man who was dead walks out alive. **That’s redemption.** This is the hope we carry: **Death is not the end. Loss is not the final word.** What was lost is restored. What was dead is revived. What was bound is released. What was hopeless becomes a testimony. Jesus brings life where we thought life was over, and Scripture says many believed because of what they saw. Redemption is never just personal—it becomes a witness.

As we walk Redemption Road today, Psalm 130 shows us the cry. John 11 provides us with the answer. Together they declare:

- God hears you in the depths. God forgives you completely.
- God invites you to wait with hope. God walks with you into the tombs you fear.
- God brings life to places that feel finished. God calls you out into new life.
- God promises a future where all things are made new.

You are not walking this road alone. Jesus is beside you—steady, faithful, and redeeming every step. Wherever you are on Redemption Road today—crying out, waiting, wrestling, or stepping out of the tomb—God’s unfailing love and full redemption are already at work in your story.