FOLLOW UP
John 11:44 NIV

I can remember working in the ER, and whatever the sickness, trauma or injury was, interventions were all about how to facilitate healing. Whether a bandage, medicine, splint, fluids… it was about how do we facilitate healing?

In the passage we are going to look at, Jesus tells the disciples how to facilitate ongoing healing-

I want to look at this from the perspective of Follow Up-

John 11:44 NIV The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

I THE FOLLOW UP PROCESS:

A- It's important to understand that Salvation has 2 parts-

1. **The miracle of a moment**: Being BORN AGAIN… That is supernatural… Only God can do that.
   a. Passage context: Lazarus is raised from the dead. Only Jesus could do that for him!
2. **The process of change over time**: After the miracle, is the ongoing change of a person-
   a. **John 11:44 NIV** The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."
      i. After the miracle, more things had to happen… The grave clothes had to be removed.
3. This is what we call this Follow Up… Where People get involved in the *ongoing* work of salvation-
   a. Jesus did the supernatural… then he directed the disciples to get involved.

II UNDERSTANDING FOLLOW UP:

A- Transformation in a persons life is also a miracle: **Only God can change people**.

1. So, Your job in follow up is NOT to transform people. B/c we cannot do that!
   a. You are not supposed to sort converts out: With rules, telling them everything that has to change by Wednesday-
   b. You're not supposed to sort out every problem: pay their bills, buy them groceries, become a free uber-
      i. It's fine to HELP… but some believers make it *their* problem, and I need to take responsibility for them!
2. See, people only change by revelation… They have to see it in order to do it-
   a. **Ephesians 1:17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better… God gives revelation and revelation produces change!

B- So, the primary focus of follow up is to form **relationship**!

1. This involves people skills: **PG** definition of people skills is: The ability to make people feel comfortable-
2. I've been taught: *People will fall in love with you, before they fall in love with your Jesus*. That's ok!
   a. Relationship goes beyond church talk and Jesus talk… Disciples get worried that they aren't teaching enough-
3. Our job is to facilitate an environment for relationship to form, to give God room to work in their lives-
   a. Coffee/meals/sports/hobbies/common interests… Anything to invest into relationship-

C- The wisdom of this is recognizing what level of revelation people have-

1. **EVERYONE GROWS AT DIFFERENT PACES-** No two converts are the same… everyone is different.
   a. **Matthew 16:17** Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven… This has been revealed to YOU… but not everyone else-
2. So, You have to discern what should be discussed and what should be avoided.
   a. Can they handle that right now? **John 16:12** I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.
      i. Paul said the same in **1 Cor 3** & in **Heb 5**… That is wisdom! That comes by being in tune with the HG (prayer)

III DISCIPLES AND FOLLOW UP:

A-Every disciple must be involved in follow up… **Jn 11:44** Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes"

1. Because it in necessary: Most new converts will not make it without help from saved relationships…
2. Because it is how you learn to work with people:
   a. You learn what people are like… You learn what you are like… you learn skills (*what works and what doesn't*)
3. It is how you demonstrate your ability for future ministry:
   a. **Titus 1:8 KJV** a lover of hospitality… **Jn15:8** When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples.
      i. Faithfulness here propels you into greater ministry… A mark of concert directors (*Devon, Ayele, Sam*)