

# I am the Resurrection and the Life

## John 11:1-44

### I AM Series

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" - **PRAY**

**He was 52 years old – in perfect health, played Tennis regularly – an avid runner.**

A) One day while mowing his lawn – he had a massive heart attack and died.

B) I showed up at the Hospital to find his grieving wife and Kids.

C) Where does a family find HOPE in the midst of a sudden death like that.

**Take the families who have lost an infant – never prepare for that – Pierces your heart.**

A) Is it possible to find a RAY OF HOPE in the midst of that kind of pain.

B) Talking with some friends on Friday – Wed marked the 1 year anniversary of Steve E.

1) Beloved older saint in our fellowship – Cancer

**C) We could prepare for that one - We knew it was coming – STILL PAINFUL – STILL MISSED.**

1) Talking about Floyd – Miss those guys  
**Where can we find hope in the midst of the grief?**

A) The words of Jesus to Martha – provide the answer for us TODAY – Hope in the face of death.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

B) These are incredible words – Fill our hearts with Hope in the face of death.

C) In this one statement – I AM #5 – JESUS hits on another one of **the greatest longings** in the heart of man.

D) How can I have an assurance that I know where I am going when I die?

1) If a man dies – will He live again – how can we know for sure?

**Today we will see that the answer to that question is in the words that Jesus spoke here.**

A) Outline today: Look at the story in it's entirety

**AMAZING STORY** – great lessons/ insights

B) Come back and consider Jesus' statement – how it gives hope in the face of death – addresses longing

C) Wrap up – See how this statement has application to us – **not JUST IN PHYSICAL DEATH**

1) Death in something else/ Marriage/ Hope/ Faith

**Begin by looking at the story in Full – V.1**

**Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.** 2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

A) Lazarus of Bethany two sisters – Mary and Martha – they are in the inner circle of Jesus – they are close friends – Jesus spends time at their house

**B) He would stay there – they were hospitable to him**

1) Which was no small task – when he came he brought at least 12 guys with him

C) Like thanksgiving every time they Showed up!

**He loved this family – he was close to this family he was intimately acquainted with this family.**

A) It is a Godly home – It is a home where Jesus is welcome – BUT there is sickness there.

B) Lazarus – is sick – and the sisters send message to Jesus – **The one that you love is sick** –

C)Note, **not the one that loves you** –even though that was true – but they say – the one **you love** is sick

Take note of that because there are those who will wrongly suggest

A)That if you walk in a close proximity to Jesus – you are going to be free from sickness / PROBLEMS.

B)Not True – some of the greatest Saints in the Bible suffered greatly!

1)Sickness, suffering and death will come to every home – even a godly home.

C)I know There are households here TODAY– with suffering and sickness – **He loves you.**

So the sisters send word to Jesus – the one whom you love is sick. - continue

A)Jesus dropped everything **and ran** to be at Lazarus' side.

B)What, isn't that what your Bible says? - it is what mine says –

1)Not really – but that is what we would expect it to say – right?

4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Now **Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.**

So he dropped everything to go and be with them in this difficult time! - NOPE

6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He **stayed two more days in the place where He was.**

A)Now this seems like a contradiction – He hears Lazarus is sick you would think that he would have ran down there – **but instead he waited** –

B)This is what we call – **the Love of God tarrying**

1)MUST REMEMBER – GOD'S DELAYS ARE NOT – DENIALS

C)Working something in us/..... something for us!

1)**KEY – HIS GLORY!!!!!!**

7 Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?"

**YOU WANT TO GO BACK – are you crazy!**

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? Now we know that there is 24hrs in a day – he is talking about the light -12 hrs of daylight

If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

11 These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up."

12 Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." 13 However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was **speaking about taking rest in sleep.**

The Disciples say – great – He is sleeping let him sleep that is good for sick people –

V.14 Jesus said to them plainly – LAZARUS is dead!

15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe.

Jesus was glad for **our sakes as well** that He was not there – so that we have this record – our faith strengthened

Nevertheless let us go to him." 16 Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

Interesting – Thomas is called – **Doubting Thomas** – but here he is **DEVOTED** Thomas –

A)Thomas funny – Eeyore – “let us go that we may die with him” –

B)None of the other disciples said let us go with him so we can die with him.

1)They don't say it but Thomas does –

C)But he is just the negative Disciple – There are some Christians like that – **Eyore Christians** –

1)always negative – glass is always ½ empty – the end of the world is always about to happen

D)Thomas – Eyore – Devoted – **lets go so we ....**

**V.17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. 19 And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.**

**Imagine the scene – Martha – serving one – she was probably in charge of the funeral arrangements –**

A)Mary is more contemplative – she wondering – where was Jesus and what Now?

B)House is full of Mourners – Custom -

**20 Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house.** [Evidently she had not heard He was coming ]

B)This is very characteristic of Martha she is a woman of action.

1)Martha greets Jesus with a phrase that must have been frequently on all of their lips when Lazarus was sick.

C)How many times must they have said, "Oh, if Jesus were only here."

**21 Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.**

**She had been thinking this for more than 4 days – she had been thinking this before he died –**

A)Where is He - "When is he going to show up?"

**B)We sent the message – days ago –**

1)And then when LAZARUS Died – **Why didn't he come?**

C)He healed other people – what about us? We are supposed to be his friends.

D)Anguish and Frustration in her voice - **"Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."**

**Jesus will hear this 3 times: 1<sup>st</sup> Martha – then Mary – then the Mourners**

A)And each time the question carries a thinly veiled questioning of his love and a suspicion, a doubt.

B)I understand that – I have had my moments where I have doubted God – Understand her anguish.

1)I don't understand what she said next

**22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."**

C)What is she saying – Is she saying Lord I believe that you can raise the dead? – MAYBE

D)If so she seems to have a lapse of faith – when Jesus says lets go to the tomb – remove stone

1)Dead – Sure – Stinks

E)If that is the case – appreciate this too. -

**THAT IS ME – I can be UP AND DOWN — LORD YOU CAN DO ANYTHING – one day**

A)GOD WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED US!

B)Jesus responds: **23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."**

**24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."**

**C)Martha gets THEOLOGICAL - She is in that place of struggling between theology and reality.**

D)Do You ever struggle in that way? I know what the Bible says –

1) I know what God is capable of – but in the daily grind of life – we question.

Our world seems to be so barren of miracles – so we think, "Those days have gone.

A) God can't work now. But one day – He is coming back - He will work again..... RESTORE

B) This is Martha – HER faith IS in the future, at the resurrection of the last day,

C) Her theology is accurate, but she has forgotten that God is right there in the here and now.

1) Precious saints – Don't forget that Jesus is the God of the here and now – Same yesterday... forever.

Martha is struggling there – between theology and reality and that is what makes what Jesus says – so Beautiful and powerful

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

That was an incredible statement I AM #5 – RESURRECTION / LIFE and one that divided man into two categories.

Those who believe - those who do not.

A) Those who have hope today - those who have no hope.

B) COME BACK TO THIS IN A MINUTE.

C) At this point Martha goes to get Mary —Mary is weeping – those with her are weeping

1) Mary comes and says the same thing: Lord if You had been here.....

Skip to v. 33

33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.

Groaned in the spirit and was troubled = He was angry – this deeply upset Jesus

A) But he is not angry at them-

B) He sees the tears flowing out the eyes of the broken hearted – Mary and her friends

C) And he becomes angry with Sin – angry with Death

1) ANGRY with all that Sin and death does to the human spirit.

D) He groans over it / his heart is troubled.

34 And He said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Jesus wept.

A) Shortest verse in the Bible – yet so power packed – Jesus wept – CONVULSED - joined in – heart hurt

B) Jesus looked through the portals of time - that wife and kids – Best friend – Husband – suddenly died

1) Every parent who ever lost an infant

C) Every memorial service – every graveside .....

D) Those mourning were touched: 36 Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"

1) SOME WONDERED - 37 And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"

{ HOPELESS NOW

38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, ARE YOU SURE

"Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." ARE YOU SURE- NASTY

40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

If Jesus didn't call him by name – the whole cemetery would have been risen!

**And he who had died** came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

**WOW! – AWESOME – IT IS TRUE!**

A) Jesus has the power to Raise the dead!

B) Jesus gives us Hope in the face of death – back to V.25

1) Jesus words to Martha – I am # 5

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

**That was an incredible statement one that divided man into two categories.**

A) Those who **believe** – those who don't – Those who **have hope today** – those who have **no HOPE!**

B) What did Jesus mean when he said, "*He who believes on Me shall never die*"

C) TO understand that question – we really need to understand the Biblical definition of death!

D) True death means **a separation from God.**

**First man Adam: You eat – die! He didn't....**

A) But there was a death – Separation – Wall – no more walks

B) If a person lives for himself, he is dead while he yet lives.

C) The Bible teaches us we are all sinners - Born sinners – Prove ..... **MISS THE MARK** –

1) Don't have to teach kids to sin - Natural – lie, selfish, etc

**Our Sin separates us from God**

A) And if a person dies in that state they end up being separated from God for all of eternity.

B) The Bible teaches that **Man is basically a spirit being** – We all have a spirit – **REAL YOU.**

C) **YOUR SPIRIT lives in a body,**

1) But this body is not me, just the instrument by which I can express myself.

D) The way God has designed we express ourselves

**But there will come a time in every person's life – sometimes it is through tragedy**

A) Sometimes it is sickness – sometimes it is just old age.

B) There will come a day – **Never know** – **Tomorrow is promised to no man!**

1) Come a day – where the body ceases to function – the heart stops beating.

C) But the real you remains very much alive – spend eternity in one of two realms

1) Either with God – or eternally separated from God

D) The Bible describes as **outer darkness – torment – weeping and Gnashing of teeth.**

1) Perpetual state of dying that never stops – **That was the plight of every single Human being after the fall – Doomed – Damned – Happy V. Day!**

A) But Jesus is revealing that the person who believes in him – **ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE.**

B) **HE NEVER DIES – BODY CEASES – HEART STOPS** – but Spirit doesn't experience death.

1) Never experiences separation

- John 3:35-36 **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."**

C) **JESUS TOOK THE WRATH – CROSS – RESURRECTION**

1) **SO we could be forgiven – have life**

D) He took the wrath – so we could escape it!

**How could a loving God send people to hell –**

A) Answer he doesn't – people choose to go there of their own free will – **REFUSING** to believe in Jesus

B) Predicted his death – predicted his Resurrection

1) I don't believe that - **MADE YOUR CHOICE** – God's wrath remains on you – Sealed your fate.

C) Not a believer in Jesus – this world is as good as it gets for you! – All down Hill after this

**D) But if you are a believer in JESUS – this world is as bad as it gets for you – Upward and onward**

- John 5:24 **"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."**

**Paul the Apostle – 1 Thessalonians – Loved one dies who knew Jesus – WE SORROW – but not as those who have NO HOPE!**

A) **HOPE IN THE FACE OF DEATH- Body dies**

B) **But the Spirit moves – New Body!**

C) **HEAR tomorrow – Pastor Rob died – don't believe it – just CHANGED LOCATION – {MORE ALIVE}**

**In 2 Cor 5 - Paul expresses it like this:**

For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

**This body was made for planet earth and no where else. Space suits /Ocean – tanks**

A) **This body made for here – When this Body quits working - NEW BODY WAITING**

B) **Not bound by time/ space – Can't get sick – doesn't rot**

Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a

guarantee.

So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. **We are confident**, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

**This is our Hope in the face of Death – Jesus died – Rose – Beat death –**

A) **We don't have to fear death!**

B) **Jesus' statement in V25 – Answers the question – How can we know – where going when we die?**

C) **BELIEVE IN JESUS! the Resurrection and the Life – TODAY!!!!**

**This passage not only gives us hope for the future – but it also gives us hope IN THE PRESENT!**

A) **We live in a world – where not only people die - Things Die! –**

B) **Love dies – Marriages die – Friendships die – 1) All the result of sin.**

C) **Sometimes it is our faith that dies – or our hope that dies!**

D) **Here today/ Marriage is dead or dying – Hope died**

**Jesus is still the Resurrection and the life!**

A) **He can bring life to what has died or is dying in your heart today.**

B) **But I want you to note that before Jesus did this miracle – there was an obstacle that needed to be removed! – LARGE STONE**

C) **Jesus didn't use supernatural power – to move the stone – Could have - would have been cool.**

1) **Stone be gone – Blows off into the sea of Galilee**

**Jesus could have employed Supernatural power but instead he enlisted – Human help – Move the stone**

A) **Lesson for us today – Jesus was going to do something supernatural – Bringing Lazarus to life.**

B)But before – he asked them to do something that showed faith - Remove the stone.

C)They could have argued – that is stupid – that is silly – what for?

1)Martha is right – He is going to stink –

D)But a group of guys there said: Ok – we will move the stone – believing something is going to happen

**TODAY: In your life – there is a barrier – and obstacle – to you seeing Resurrection power in your life.**

A)Anger – Bitterness – Unforgiveness – Jesus says move the stone –

**B)We say – Lord Bring Resurrection and I will – he says you have it backwards –**

1)You do what I have been telling you to do – and watch what happens.

C)You forgive – Forgiveness is an ACTION not an emotion – You forgive – in your heart –

1)Daily if you have to.

D)We say: Lord restore the feelings of love – and I will act right

1)He says – Start loving – being loving – your heart is going to follow.

**On Instagram – Sometimes a good one. My Friend Bill Welsh; - Posted this quote by Frederick Douglass – no idea who he was**

**“I prayed for freedom for 20 years, but received no answer until I prayed with my legs.”**

**God often waits for our participation before he moves in the miraculous**

A)He calls us to take a step of faith or to respond in obedience and that is the moving of the stone.

B)Is there something – that Jesus has been saying to you – move this – do away with this – stop that

1)The Miracle of Resurrection is not going to happen until you do.

2)DO IT TODAY!

**One more thing I want to point out – Powerful in this story.**

A)After Lazarus is raised - Lazarus comes walking out

B)Jesus says Loose him –

C)Another Profound picture for us as a Church

**Jesus understood that this man needed more than life: he needed liberty, he needed freedom,**

A)Now that he was alive – He needed to be loosed and he put that into their hands.

B)Jesus is the only one who can REGENERATE people

C)But after he does that work of bringing the dead to life – of saving –

1)He asks us as believers – as a church – his hands and feet – to help people get freed.

D)Freed from hang ups and free from addictions

**To loose him – they had to get up, get personal – smelly wrappings – the stench – the junk**

A)Helping people get loosed – Discipleship – it is hands on – up close and personal –

B)Walk with them – love on them – give the word – show how to live the word

1)Takes patience –

**C)Fulfill our calling – we need to be willing to the best of our ability – help people get freed**

D)LOOSE THEM – JESUS WOULD SAY TO US.

**CLOSE:**

**IF YOU DIED TODAY – ASSURANCE OF HEAVEN? – ETERNITY WITH GOD?**

**OR ETERNITY SEPERATED? – Have you embraced Jesus**

**Are you a believer here today: Something is dying**

A)Need Resurrection –

B)Is there a stone that needs to be removed ?

- Pride – laid at the altar –
- Bitterness –
- Marriage – Valentines – Jesus loves you for you

Let him work