

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

I have shared this with you before – too many times

A)But that is not going to stop me from sharing it again – 10 people haven't heard it

B)My dad passed in Feb 2020 – Hospital – every nurse doctor – Not afraid to die.. looking forward..

C)Why? My dad believed with all of his heart the words of Jesus - "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

D)He had a Hope -if this is it – I know where I am going – Looking forward to seeing Jesus

As a Pastor I have been at the bedside at the Hospital or in the home –many times of a saint who was dying

A)It is always an incredible moment – Bitter/sweet rolled into one

B)There Peace in the midst of pain – Calm in midst of crying

1)Confidence in the face of Consternation -

How is that people who are going through the toughest trial of their life can still have Joy?

A)How does a memorial service for Charlie Kirk turn into a 2 hour worship experience

B)Followed by several hours of speakers – giving glory to the name of Jesus

C)The answer to both of those questions is the people involved believed in the Words of Jesus - "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.

D)The question Martha had to answer and the question we have to answer today is this:

1)Do you believe this? –

Today we come to I AM statement #5 in our series of the I AM statements of Jesus

A)Seven powerful statements that Jesus made – describing his heart and ministry

B)We have noted that in each one Jesus is identifying himself as the answer to a need in the heart of man

C)To those seeking Satisfaction in their hearts

D)He identifies himself in John 6 by saying I AM the bread of life – Lasting satisfaction – deepest longing

For those who are in the dark spiritually – Jesus says in John 8 I Am the light of the world

A)To those who seeking entrance into the Kingdom – Jesus says in John 10 - I Am the door.

B)To those who are wandering aimlessly – Jesus says I Am the Good shepherd – Last week Pastor Jason

C)Today to anyone and everyone who is ever wandered – is there life after death?

1)Jesus says – I Am the Resurrection and the Life

D)As we unpack this passage today – we are going to see Jesus in ways that we don't normally think of

E)Guys this is a powerful passage – pivotal passage – 1)Dividing line between those who have hope today and those who have no hope

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. 3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

Lazarus of Bethany two sisters – Mary and Martha – they are in the inner circle of Jesus –

A)They are close friends of Jesus – Whenever he was near Bethany he spent 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. – Lets continue

A) And Jesus dropped everything and RAN to be at Lazarus side. What?

B) Isn't that what your Bible says – Mine does

C) No it doesn't but that is what would expect it to say. – But it doesn't - The one you love....drops...

D) What we would expect - In fact it says the opposite

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

This seems like a major contradiction –

A) He loves them but he is not coming -right away he is delaying two days – what is going on here?

B) Keep reading:

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.

#1 Jesus will sometimes delay his coming or working in order to strengthen our faith

They had seen Jesus heal all manner of diseases – Including Lepers/ seen him cast out Demons

A) Seen him walk on water – they had even seen him raise the Dead { Jairus..../ Widow of Nain's son

B) Jesus interrupted the funeral procession

C) But they had not seen him – raise someone who had been dead for 4 days –

So Jesus delays his coming

A) His delays are not denials – Song waymaker – he is always working – even when we can't see it

B) Note V.15 that phrase that you may believe.

C) The You in V. 15 includes – You and me –

1) Jesus delayed his coming – to deepen and strengthen our faith

Jesus is going to let the events in this story go down a certain way

A) For those of you who have ever had a moment where you said, "Where are you, God? Why haven't you come?"

B)He's doing it for you, believers, who are trying to hold on to faith

1)even though you're pretty disappointed in God right now,

C)And he's doing it for those of you who've lost your faith, who used to believe in God

1)until the bitterness of life just crushed it out of you.

D)He let this story play out a certain way, so that YOU might believe.

1)So that your faith might be deepened and Strengthened

Jesus will at times allow us to suffer and go through hard things – so that we see him

A)Not just as the healer or the rescuer –

B)But so we experience Him as the one who gives Sufficient grace – Power in weakness

C)So that we can comfort others with the comfort and strength that we have received from God

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 gets bad rap/ he's called – Doubting Thomas –

A)But here he is DEVOTED Thomas –

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 – So off they go

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. 20 Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house

Now Imagine the scene – House is full of Mourners – Great sorrow and sadness

A)Martha hears that Jesus is coming – she immediately goes out to meet him

B)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."

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)She has been thinking it – now She verbalizes it –

1)these words coming pouring out of the anguish in her heart!!!

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

E)Lord where were you? Where have you been?

But in the midst of her anguish is this glimmer of hope - 22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

A)Wow – That is faith – It seems Martha is suggesting – I believe you can raise the dead

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)What we see in Martha in this scene is something that we all can wrestle with

1)The Dance between our Theology and our Reality

D)Lord – I know that you can do anything – Faith – but – I know rise in the last days

Man with the Demon possessed son – Lord I believe but help my unbelief – Jesus delivered his son

A)He meets us in our faith – however small it might be

B)Faith the grain of a mustard seed – Move MTS

C)Martha is struggling there – between theology and reality { You? – I believe But.....

1)HER faith IS in the future, at the resurrection of the last day

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

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

#2 Jesus' I AM declaration in the face of death!

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)The Bible teaches us we are all sinners - Born sinners/ Archery = MISS THE MARK – SIN

C)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. – Hell

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

There will come a day – Never know when – Tomorrow is promised to no man!

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

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

1)Either with God – or eternally separated from God

C)That is Hell -Place the Bible describes as outer darkness – torment – weeping and Gnashing of teeth.

That was the plight of every single Human being after the fall – Doomed – Damned – MISSED THE MARK

A)But Jesus is revealing that the person who believes in him – Has 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."

There was a Family that was visiting a cemetery in Texas

A) There was a certain grave that stood out from the rest – it seemed to be in the center of the grave yard

B) It had a fence around the Plot – They looked at this burial plot and thought –

1) Someone special must be buried there? Royalty?

C) So they asked someone who worked there – who’s grave this was? – Special person – Royalty?

D) The person who worked there said: Quite the opposite – Gravesite of a person lived Shameful life

In fact they said: He was a Criminal – and when he died this plot was actually outside the grave yard

A) The family – built that fence around the burial plot to keep people from desecrating the grave – loathed

B) But as the years went by and more people died – the graveyard property expanded more and more

C) To the point where – that Plot is now in the center
It looks like – it is special

Guys that is what happens to the person who becomes a follower of Jesus

A) Shameful sinners become Royalty – Sons and daughters of KING JESUS

B) We live with the Hope – Heaven when we die

C) Born again to a living Hope thru the Resurrection of Jesus

D) HEAR tomorrow – Pastor Rob died – don’t believe it – just CHANGED LOCATION – {MORE ALIVE

This is our Hope in the face of Death – Jesus died – Rose – Beat death – death doesn’t have to beat us

A) We don’t have to fear death!

B) SO Jesus makes this incredible declaration about death – for those who believe

C) At this point Martha goes to get Mary —

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

#3 Jesus Reaction to death – 2 THINGS

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

He groaned in his spirit - ‘he got indignant;’ In other words he got angry – **1ST REACTION – ANGER**
Scholars say the best translation is He ‘snorted’;
A) like an animal snorting in anger right before it charges.

B) Not angry at them – Angry at death

B) John Calvin said that this is “Jesus entering the ring like a wrestler preparing for a contest with a hated foe. The violent tyranny of death which he came to overcome now stands before his eyes.”

C) If you were writing the soundtrack for this story, There would be a change in the music –

1) From sad melodramatic instrumental – would switch to the Rocky Sound track

D) Or “Avengers Assemble,” for you millennials.

Jesus the friend, has just become the mighty warrior, because when it comes to death,

A) We didn’t just need a weeping friend, we also needed a conquering hero.

B) And, BTW, can I just add here--it’s ok for you to be angry at death.

1) To feel hatred at suffering and cancer. Jesus did.

The world is not supposed to be like this, and you’re not supposed to ever get used to it.

A) Life with Jesus is not a Hallmark movie – all smiles and simple problems

B) This world is marked by pain and death because of sin –

C) Jesus is about to go into battle with the most hated, most dreadful enemy ever known by mankind, 1) and in so doing he’s going to offer something no other religious leader, or political leader,

2) or scientist, has ever been able to offer.

D) He is the Only one Person in history who has ever gone into the darkness of the grave and walked out by his own power. AMEN

So Jesus First reaction at the Sting of death is Anger
His 2nd Reaction – He Wept

³⁴ And He said, “Where have you laid him?”

They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”

³⁵ Jesus wept.

V.35 Shortest verse in the Bible – yet so power packed Jesus wept – CONVULSED -

A)The Son of God, who placed the stars in the sky, wept with two broken-hearted sisters.

B)To be honest, Jesus’ tears here are a little confusing to me,

C)You see, Jesus knew that in 10 minutes Lazarus would be out of the grave

1)and everyone would be reunited and rejoicing.

Sometimes I can be watching a Show with Denise – the Hero is in Danger –

A)She doesn’t do well with those – tense – freaks out – Rob is he going to make it ?

B)Well there is four more seasons and he is in everyone – So Yes

C)I am calm – I know he is going to make it – I just want to see how.

Jesus Knows what he is going to do here – he knows how this story ends – So why is he Crying so hard?

A)“So that WE may believe.”

B)It’s because Jesus wants US to understand how he feels about us, in our pain.

C)Jesus knows the pain is temporary, but he also knows what it feels like for you,

1)and he weeps with you.

D)He wants you to know that

Every parent lost a child – he weeps with you

A)Everyone who has ever lost a loved one – He weeps with you.

B)He wants us to Know he is the High Priest who feels our pain – sympathize with our weaknesses

C)So we will come to him!

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and

we will find grace to help us when we need it most. Hebrews 4:15-16 NLT

#3 His reaction to death – Anger / weeping

#4 Jesus’ Power over death

38Then 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

After 4 days Decomposition as set in – the body is starting to decay – Stench

A)Martha is battling again in her faith – Lord are you sure/

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

B)This is amazing – Martha is doubting and Yet Jesus is still going to perform the miracle

V.41

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!”

C)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.”

A)I can’t help but wonder if Lazarus is a little miffed here

B)I can’t help but wonder – if he isn’t thinking – Who asked Jesus to bring me back ?

C)I was in Paradise with Abraham, Moses, David – having a great time

D)Pastor Chuck Smith used to always say – if I die please do not ask Jesus to raise me –

1)Ready for HEAVEN!!!! – AMAZING

Suddenly in that moment to everyone who was there it became evident - TRUE!

A)Jesus has the power to Raise the dead!

B)It wouldn't be long before they would see Him die Brutally beaten – unrecognizable as a man

C)Three days later – HE WOULD WALK OUT OF THE TOMB

D)JESUS IS INDEED THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

E)If you believe in Him – Not experience spiritual death – when you die – Heaven

1)Do you believe this? – Have HOPE – open heart

Before we go today – there are two more quick things I want us to see

A)1st is before Jesus did this miracle – there was an obstacle that needed to be removed! –

B)LARGE – STONE over the grave – Jesus had them move the stone

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

D)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 Laz to life.

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

C)He invited their participation in the miracle

He will often do that with us – You need a healing?

A)You need deliverance – You want to be set free

B)He says move the stone – Moving the stone can be something simple as confession we need help

C)That confession - Reveals a stench – something that stinks in our marriage – need help

Know this today: That thing that has happened in the marriage – pride – bitterness - or sin

A)Whatever it is that caused it to die a little bit

B)Jesus is angry – Not at you but the sin – the affect

C)Jesus is heartbroken – that you are missing out on HIS BEST FOR YOU.

D)He wants to bring healing – he wants to set free

E)Infuse your life with Resurrection power today!

1)If you are willing to Move the stone –

Messy, smelly – yes – but he doesn't care – he knows he loves he sees

A)He is ready to infuse that situation in your life with Resurrection power today –

B)if you are willing move the stone

C)Is there an area of your life that has died – or is initial stages of death

D)You need a fresh infusion of Resurrection power? Move the stone – open your heart –

1)Admit your need

E)Quit pretending to have it all together – Jesus knows what is real –

1)he knows what is behind the stone façade

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

A)You moving the stone today might be as simple as getting prayer for the need

B)Admitting there is a problem – Admitting – I am not where I want to be

C)Exposing the stench – Opportunity to do that 2day

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 saves, heals – transforms

A)Then we asks us to help the person get loose –

B)We call that discipleship – Body ministering to the body – help each other grow

C)Again opportunity to experience that today
Pray

Want to experience fresh touch of Resurrection power in your marriage – area of your life

A)Prayer today -

B)Area of struggle – Bondage

C)Move the stone – I need Jesus to meet me in this area of my life today