

Title: I Am The Resurrection and the Life

Text: John 11:1- ³²

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to John chapter 11. John chapter 11 beginning at Vs 1. Today, and next Sunday, I would like to deal with the single event that caused a tremendous excitement through out the region and through out the city of Jerusalem. This event cause the multitudes to greet Jesus with cries of "HOSANNA! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD." *AND caused the authorities to plot his death*
This tremendous event was the RAISING OF LAZARUS from the dead.

John chapter 11 verse 1.. (Read Vs 1-32)

*Please stand for the reading of
Ed's Word*

Prayer

out (1A) First of all, I would like you to notice the events leading up to the resurrection of Lazarus in the first 16 verses.

now (1B) And in the first 5 verses we find the purpose for this sickness of Lazarus
Three things, as to the purpose of that sickness.

(1C) Number one, involves the people that were there. According to the Bible this was a demonstration of the love of Jesus for them. Vs 3 says, "The sisters therefore sent to Him, saying, 'Lord, behold, he whom you love is sick.'" And Vs 5 reminds us that Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

So, one of the purpose's for this sickness of Lazarus was to show the love of Jesus for these folks. I think that is tremendous. It is something we ought to remember.

Often, when sickness comes, we feel alone. But, if we permit it, we could experience God's love for us. Sometimes God can't get our attention until He has us on our backs. DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN? Sometimes He has to put us down so that we can look up. And God, in love, many times is ministering to us in our sickness in a far greater way than He could possible minister to us in health. So, God is showing His love, here, to these people who are involved: Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. And this is a wonderful principle to get straight in your minds, as we begin.

from Jesus was not ignoring the problem. Jesus didn't wait two days because He didn't want to be involved. That is not what this is teaching.

The passage teaches that ~~it is~~ it is because Jesus loved people. That is why he did what he did. We all need to be reminded of that. We often don't know why something is happening. And why these things are coming our way. Like when it rains, it pours, you know. Something happens to you. Then it seems to be one thing after another. Have you ever noticed how when you make that last payment on your car, the whole car falls apart? Have you notice that?.....

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Well, let me tell you it is true. I am a man of experience. It has happened to me this past month. I take the care in for a tune-up and wind up over hauling the entire engine. And you wonder why? Why me Lord?...

Who else, but you....You know, God loves us. He is doing what he is doing in our lives because of greater motivation then simply because He doesn't like us. *or We have Done Something Bad* Listen, God knows what he is doing. And in suffering you can know the love and compassion of Christ in a wonderful way.

(*) There is a second *Principle* thing involved in the purpose of his sickness and that *is relating to* ~~is relating to~~ the power of God. In Vs 4" Jesus ~~is~~ said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God."

God is glorified when ~~his~~ *His* power is excersised. Jesus of course knew ahead of time what He was going to do. That He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead. And that would glorfy God.

In fact that is the number one motive ~~of~~ of all christian life. The Bible says in I Corinthians 10:31 that "whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

You see, God doesn't heal in order to heal. You knew that didn't you? God doesn't heal people simply to heal them. Because healing is only temporary. Everyone get's sick and dies anyway. It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgement. When God heals someone, he is healed. God does a good job. *There is* ~~And~~ no partical healing with God. ~~He heals you just~~ *Heals* ~~right.~~ And when ~~God~~ *God* does ~~that~~, He heals for his own glory. And when his power is manifested he exspects the praise of his people.

To say...THANK YOU, LORD, IT WAS YOUR POWER THAT DID IT. Not giving any glory to anyone else.....To give Glory to God.....

(A) There is a third thing involved here and that involves the person of Christ. The last phrses of Vs 4 says "that the son of God may be glorified by it.".....Here we find another testimony to the person of Christ?

Now, remember the key signs here in the Gospel of John. The O.T. predicted that the Messiah would heal the lame....John chapter 5 Jesus healed the lame. The O.T. predicted that the Messiah would heal the blind. John chapter 9, Jesus healed the man who was blind from birth. The O.T. predicted that the Messiah would raise the dead. And in John chapter 11 Jesus is going to raise the dead. This was another sign.

And also remember the whole purpose of John as stated in chapter 20 verse 31: "that these signs that have been written, have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

That is why we have these signs....And this is another sign in Chapter 11 "that the son of God may be glorified by it." The person of Christ would be exalted; and people would ^{come to believe} know that Jesus is the Christ.

It is interesting, also, that the sisters in Vs 3 ^{is the church} appealed to Jesus on the bases of His love....Not Lazarus"s. Now, I know this is a fine point. But it just struck me. Every now and then some little things stricks me and I just have to dump it out on you. So, if it doesn't get you in the same way, just forgive me....You Know?....

But, anyway in Vs 3 this is a neat little thought. The sisters said, Lord, behold, he whom you love is sick."

You know, the usually approach of someone is: "LORD, you know ^{how} much I love you so what else could you do but ^{to} heal me".....

That is what we usually say....Right?.....But notice..."LORD, HE WHOM YOU LOVE IS SICK."....They appealed to His love, rather than to their own affection and ministry for him. I think that is just beautiful. It tells us what our motive ought to be...And I was just blessed by this. And I wanted to share it with you.....

(B) In Vs 6 to 10 we want to look at this problem of going into Judea. A couple of things, here, I would like you to notice.

(19)

In Vs 8, Notice the anxiety of the disciples. They were quite upset that ^{Jesus} he wanted to go back to Judea. They said "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you; and are you going there again?"

Turn back to chapter 10 verse 30. At the Feast of Dedication Jesus had been in confrontation with the Jews. And when he said in Vs 30: "I and the Father are one" the Jews took up stones to stone him.

Vs 39: "Therefore they were seeking again to seize him."

So, it is no wonder the disciples said "Rabbi, the Jews were ^{just} seeking to stone you; and are you going there again?" So, they were very anxious.

(20) But notice the answer of Jesus. His answer is really a parable. He doesn't say: "Well, don't be afraid. Everything is going to be alright." He doesn't answer that way. Instead he gives them a parable.

(Read Vs 9-10)

Now, what is He really saying? I think ^{He was saying} there are two things. ~~just~~

(1) One, that his working day was not over. They were worried about the Jews killing him. Listen, friends, Jesus died on time. He died at the exact moment he planned to die. Right on time. There wasn't anything missing. He died in the middle of the afternoon on the day of Passover, right when they were killing those lambs in the Temple area. He died right on time. He knew what He was doing. He said, "Listen, my working day is not over. There isn't anything to worry about."

That is kind-off encouraging to ^{my life} Christians because the Bible teaches the same thing about ^{all of us} us. It is appointed unto man once to die.

People often ask, "Well, what if I ~~can~~ take things into my own hands. Like, I get into my car and drive 90 miles an hour into a break wall and die.

Now, listen, if you do that ^{not} was your appointment.....Right?.....God knew you would do that foolish thing.....

Don't worry about God. He knows everything....You are under an ~~appointment~~ appointment...

But, what rest and what peace ought to come to the christian's heart when we realize that. ^{APPLY Put always the World Tension.} That we are under divine appointment in terms of our own ^{death.}

When God wants us to go, that is when we are going to go. And that is great to know. Wonderful peace in that truth. Nothing is going to happen to you that isn't God will. I want to tell you that right now. God knows what he is doing. Well, that is the first thing he is saying.

(2) But secondly, he is saying that He himself is the light. He is referring back to John 8:12 when he said "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND IF YOU FOLLOW ME YOU WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS."

And ~~some~~ ^{Jesus} is saying, here, that if you have the light how could you possible stumble? How could you really get into trouble? I am going to be with you, in other words. You see, you don't stumble when you have the light. You only stumble in the darkness. ^{Jesus said} And I am the light. And I am with you. So, why are you afraid....

And that is a tremendous truth. Get ahold of it. Put it to use in your life in all circumstance. Jesus said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you. And Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." There is nothing to be afraid of....

Oh, christian, let's practice what we preach....The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. And thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.

Friends, the light is here. And we are not going to stumble when we are following the light....

And I don't know about you. But that truth brings great comfort to my life. And I hope it will to yours....

(3) Now, beginning at Vs 11 we see the reason behind his delay.

This often bothers people. Why did Jesus delay? Why didn't he go immediately and heal Lazarus? Why did he wait? ^{those two days?}

(4) First of all, the revelation that Jesus gave ^{these disciples} ~~them~~ concerning Lazarus' condition. This is found in Vs 11-12. And it is kind-off interesting in the way they interpreted it.(READ VS 11-12)

The word "recover" or "^{K5}so well" in the Greek is simply the word "to save.".....It is used of physical healing as well as spiritual healing. He will be saved if he is sleeping....

Now, the thing that they would be thinking is that the fact that Lazarus was sleeping knowing that he had a serious sickness leading towards death as we learned from Vs 4. The fact that he was sleeping was evidence that he was doing better. And therefore, he shall be well soon so why do we need to go to Bethany.

(2) Well, secondly, notice in Vs 15 the ^{Real} reason for this delay. Christ makes it very clear. After he told them that Lazarus is dead he said in Vs 15: "I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe;" ~~These..you have the motive.~~ So that you may believe!"

There is the Reason For the delay

Now, the question may enter your mind at this moment: Did the Disciples believe in Jesus at this time? You often read in the early parts of John that they believed. But did they?

We also read in the Gospel of John that after the resurrection the disciples remembered the prophecy that Jesus gave unto them concerning the resurrection. Then they believed on him. So, when did they get saved? When did they really believe on *Jesus*?

Listen, the Bible teaches that belief does involve intellectual agreement to what is seen and the facts that are known. That is involved. You have to agree to the facts of the Gospel. That is really important.

But, that is not all that is involved. It is not mere intellectual agreement. People saw miracles. They were fed by the miracle of the feeding of the 5 thousand and so forth.

And people believed. But Jesus did not believe in them. As in the case of John 2 and the last few verses. People can believe in him and yet Jesus not believing in them.

Saving faith, and I believe this more than I ever have in my life, because ~~out~~ our study in John, Saving faith is believing in the claims of Jesus Christ. And accepting them as be correct and true...

It is impossible to say that you believe in Jesus Christ and do not accept the fact of what he claimed. That is an impossibility.

You can not say "I believe in Jesus" and yet you do not accept the fact that he has forgiven all of your sins...Past...Present..and future.

You can't say that you believe in Jesus Christ and then denie that Jesus said, "I and the Father are one."..And that I am the true God...

You cannot accept your own Jesus and get saved. You must accept the Jesus of the Bible. And what He claimed in order to be truly saved.

And you see, the disciples during their time with Jesus was not quite sure. The more they heard and saw the deeper their confidence grow. But at the time of the cross what happened to them? The Bible says that all the disciples forsook him and fled..

Not just Peter who denied him. They all took off. They ran away in the moment of his greatest need and hour of trial. They fled....But after the resurrection these men really believed. Thomas said, "I am not going to believe unless I see him." And when Thomas saw Jesus he said: "MY LORD AND MY GOD." Thomas called Jesus God. He came to believe in him as God

It is very important what we believe about Christ. And Jesus said, I am going to raise Lazarus so that you will believe. They needed to see this resurrection miracle. That he could raise somebody from the dead. And the purpose was so that they might understand His power. This is very important.

(3) Now, I want you to see the reaction of Thomas in Vs 16. Thomas said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Now, what did Thomas mean when he said, "Let us go that we may die with him." Die with whom.....Lazarus?.....Christ?.....What was he talking about?

Let me paraphrase this verse for you.....Thomas was saying if he was going to get it, if Jesus was going to get killed, let's die with him. Now, you guys know what happened the last time we were there. I mean we just got out of there by the skin of our teeth. They were going to stone us to death and we barely escaped. Now, you know what is going to happen. He is going to get killed.

Now, I know that Thomas is often called the doubter. And he is doubting the power of Christ. But, friends, don't miss his dedication. His loyalty to Christ. Listen, if Christ is going to die, let's all die with him. I LIKE THAT SPIRIT. THAT IS GREAT.

Oh, Thomas didn't understand everything. And he was reacting like any other human being might react. But he did love Jesus. You know, those men really did love Jesus. And you see it expressed so many times by those disciples. He was going to be faithful to him even if it meant death. And that is wonderful. Don't miss the commitment and dedication of Thomas.

(2D) Beginning at Vs 17, I want you to see the encounter with Mary and Martha

You know, there are many differences between Mary and Martha. To help you get a feel for some of these differences, would you turn, please, to Luke chapter 10:38. (1) This background material will help you understand what is happening here in John 11. Luke chapter 10 beginning with Vs 38.....

Some folks have suggested that Mary and Martha present two different types of temperments...THERE IS THE QUIET, INTROVERT TYPE: Mary...AND THERE IS THE BUSY EXTRAVERT DOING TYPE: Martha..

In Luke 10 verse 38 we read: "Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home." Wouldn't you know it. Martha owned the house. A little simple thing. But, I have never heard anybody mention it before. The Bible says that it was Martha's home.

Now, ^{Mary was her} they were sisters. And Lazarus was there also. It never says that it was Lazarus' home. Martha owned it. And how characteristic that Martha would own the home. It has been suggested that Martha was the first woman's liber. Good old Martha. She owned the house.

Vs 39 ..."And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet."

Now, I want to caution you about something. In John 11, you are going to learn that Mary is not always to be commended for the fact that she sat at the feet of Jesus. Or, that she sat quietly in the house learning...

Martha is often punished and beat over the head. And Mary is exalted. Be like Mary, not like Martha. Listen, friends, there are two different temperments here. And you can't help what your temperment is. So, there is a deeper lesson that we need to learn. In John 11, we are going to learn that Mary had something ~~def~~ definitely wrong with her faith.

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And this wasn't true of Martha. But, here in Luke, Mary is to be commended for seating at the feet of Jesus learning from Him.

Vs 40 .."But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.'" ... Here, Martha is the kind of person who says: "SOCK IT TO HER, LORD!....GO GET HER"....

Vs 41...But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only a few things are necessary really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her,."

Now, Mary probably should have helped serve the meal. But, that is not the point here at all. The point is that Martha had substituted business for what she really needed in her life. [Oh, listen, friends, I don't have to preach to long on this point. It is so easy for us to be so busy and distracted about so many things that we miss the most important thing in life. AND THAT IS ^{learning from} ~~FELLOWSHIP WITH~~ JESUS....

You see, it is more important for you to talk with Jesus than to talk with a group of people. Did you know that? It is true. It is a higher priority to talk with Jesus ...to seat at His feet and to learn. You will never share much ^{about Jesus} with anybody unless you ^{set} ~~some~~, first, at His feet and learn. I really feel that is the reason why many Christians never witness. They haven't spent time learning about Jesus. Thus, they have nothing to share.

In Acts 4:12 the Pharisees saw the boldness and freedom of speech of Peter and John and concluded that they had been with Jesus. Spend time with Jesus.

[Mary choose the best part, you see. Martha was distracted with business. And sometimes we can be so busy doing the right things, but missing the most important thing. ^{show}, please don't misunderstand. They are good and they should be done. But, you may have missed the most important thing. And that is learning God's principles at the feet of Jesus ^{or in our case} from the word of God.

But, you see, Martha was also ministering unto Jesus. This is a wonderful thing. She opened up her home. She prepared a wonderful meal for Him. And Martha was so excited that Jesus was staying in her home. [I wonder how many ladies would be doing the same thing, if Jesus was coming to your home this afternoon. Man, that house would be spotless. In fact, you would get the old family Bible out and dust it off and put it on the table...(RIGHT?).....(HA)...

I tell you, we would clean the old house up quickly....The Masters coming....And we would be busy. And the motive is good because you would be trying to serve Him...Serve Him with a good meal. And there is nothing wrong with that. Martha ministered unto Jesus.

But, Mary was ministered to by Jesus. And that is the difference, ~~you see~~ Or, let me put it another way. Martha was doing for Jesus. And we ought to be doing for Jesus. [But, Mary was learning from Jesus. And of course, we ought to, also, be learning from Jesus. *When we learn, we will be better prepared to do*

Now, knowing this let's come back to John chapter 11. (21) In this encounter with Jesus, we see, ^{First} ~~secondly~~, Vs ²⁰ ~~17~~, the concern of Martha?.. Martha clearly believes as indicated in these verses in the power of Christ. But, she lacked understanding of His purposes. She believed in His power. But, like many of us, she failed to accept the fact that what had happened was what God intended. And that He might have something better in mind.

You see, dear friends, many of us are like Martha. Instead of learning at the feet of Jesus and seeking understanding as to what God is doing in our lives, we lack the peace and the confidence and the rest in the Lord in knowing that what is happening is what God intended. Even if it is sickness.. Even if it is some great sorrow. Instead of resting in the Lord and saying: "God wants this in my life"...instead we get all upset *or angry*

Oh, we believe in the power of God. But, we are so like Martha. And we say, "If you got power then you will straighten it all out

And the reason we act this way is because we haven't spent time learning from Jesus or applying the principle of God's Word to our life

Also, we fail to understand that God's purpose may not be to strighten it all out. It may be for us to learn the peace of God in the midst of a storm. Rest in the midst of all the trails. It is not necessarily to take all the problems away. God might have something better in mind by leaving the trail. In this case, the sickness for a little longer so that ^{LAZARUS} ~~He~~ would die. Because He had something better in mind. And that is important to understand.

(3E) Now, third, in Vs 23-26 notice the confidence that Jesus gave to Martha.

And there are four things here that I really want you to take note off.

(1F) First, in Vs 23 and 24, Jesus said "Your brother shall rise again." And Martha ^{responded} ~~said~~, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." So, the first thing that I notice is Martha's acceptance of a future bodily resurrection. Martha believed in a future resurrection of the body.

And so should we. The Bible predicts it. The Bible says that our body will be resurrected in the future. *And when we believe that - our confidence in what God is doing becomes strong*

(2F) Secondly, in Vs 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the Life. The simple point, here, is to acknowledge who He is. You might accept the future bodily resurrection. But, listen, here is the resurrection and the life standing right in front of you. ACKNOWLEDGE WHO HE IS....Confess that Jesus is Lord....The one who has the power to raise the dead.

(3F) Number three, is found at the end of Vs 25 and 26 when Jesus said, "he who believes in me shall live even if he dies; and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." We do die physically, don't we? YES! But, Jesus is talking about the everlasting consequences. So, here we find our assurance of eternal life. If you believe in me and in my claims, says Jesus, Listen, even though you die physically, yet shall you live. *And ^{everyone who} ~~whoever~~ ^{lives} ~~lives~~ and believes in me shall never die.* There, dear friends, is our assurance of eternal life. *Man! Can't you glad you came to church, Today*

Now, do you really believe that? The Bible says in I John 5 that these things are written to you who believe that you may know that you have eternal life. And this life is in His son. He who has the son has eternal life

And if you don't have the son of God in your life, you don't have eternal life. WHY? Because eternal life is in Jesus.

(4F) Then, fourth, the application to each person. After saying all of this, Jesus ask in Vs 26, "DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?" Do you? I trust you do..

(4E) Now, in the ~~fourth~~ place, concerning this encounter, notice the confession of Martha. I really like this. Vs 27 .."SHE SAID TO HIM, YES, LORD: I HAVE BELIEVED THAT YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, EVEN HE WHO COMES INTO THE WORLD."...WOW!!! GOD BLESS MARTHA...THAT IS TREMENDOUS....

(5E) Then, finally, I want you to notice the coming of Mary and her reaction

When Mary came, after Martha had called her in Vs 28, notice what it says in Vs 32: "THEREFORE, WHEN MARY CAME WHERE JESUS WAS, SHE SAW HIM, AND FELL AT HIS FEET, SAYING TO HIM", 'LORD! IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE, MY BROTHER WOULD NOT HAVE DIED."

Now, compare Mary's statement with Martha's statement in Vs 21. Martha said in Vs 21, "LORD! IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE MY BROTHER WOULD NOT HAVE DIED. EVEN NOW I KNOW THAT WHATEVER YOU ASK OF GOD, GOD WILL GIVE YOU."

You see, the Bible does not record that Mary said all of that. There was no confidence expressed by Mary, like in Martha's statement.

And I believe this is in God's Word because Martha had something at this point in her life that Mary did not have.

And I wonder, what got in the way of Mary's confidence in God? You see, in her weeping and sorrow over the lose of her bother, she is now blaming Jesus. "IF YOU HAD ONLY BEEN HERE, LORD, THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED." Mary has lost the confidence that she needed in the Lord in that moment. And we are going to learn a little bit more about that next week.

But, you know, here are these two ladies: Mary and Martha. Mary was commended in Luke because she knew she had to learn from God. But in a moment of great need, Mary failed to have ~~the~~ confidence in the Lord. *And she blamed the Lord for the death of her brother. Do we blame God, when things do not go the way we want. Sure we do. Are we not like Mary?*

But, Martha ^{and} who was always so busy, according to Luke, sometimes forget the most important things, yet, she had that confidence. "I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." "And I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who comes into the world. I believe that."

Dear friends, where do you stand? You see, both of these ladies loved the Lord. And both of them believed in Jesus as the record indicates. And we are going to learn something beautiful is going to happen in the life of Mary in the next chapter. She is going to learn to love Jesus for all that He is. She is going to learn to believe in everything He claims and everything He predicted. And she is going to learn to have confidence in the Lord. To trust His death for sin and His resurrection for life. She is going to learn to have confidence in Jesus as God.

Oh, how I wish Jesus was here. I wish he could stand in this public and look over this congregation this morning. And in his own words say to all of us: "DO YOU BELIEVE THIS". Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear Jesus ask that question? Wouldn't it be great to hear him say, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me shall live even if He dies, and everyone who lives and believe in me shall never die. Do you Believe this?"

Well, he has said it in His Word. And dear friends, in order to have eternal life and live in the confidence that God knows what He is doing, you must believe.

*You must trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
and God will give to you the same Confidence He gave to*
Shall we close in prayer

Martha