

Theme: Jesus is the resurrection and the life, the One who has conquered death and offers eternal life to everyone who believes in Him.

## I. Culture, Death, Resurrection - Walking Dead

- A. Our culture has strange reaction to death
- B. On one hand we try to hide from it - most rarely see people die
- C. And when we think of life after death - zombies!
- D. What does Jesus say about this important topic?
- E. Today: I AM the Resurrection and the Life

## II. The Background

- A. Jesus' friend Lazarus was sick and died
  - 1. Mary & Martha sent word that Lazarus was sick
  - 2. Jesus waited two more days - Lazarus had died
  - 3. Jesus is clear that He did this purposefully
  - 4. He is setting up for His greatest and final sign
  - 5. When Jesus arrives, Lazarus dead for four days  
On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. John 11:17
    - a. Shows he is really dead - four days
    - b. Jews believed the spirit departed after three days
    - c. This meant no hope anything could be done
    - d. Who could possibly help now?

## B. Martha's Words of (Limited) Faith

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jo 11:21–22

- 1. Martha - I have faith you could have healed him
- 2. But now it is too late - he has been dead four days
- 3. But I know God will still listen to you - pray and he will be received into Abraham's bosom!
- 4. Jesus' ambiguous reply to Martha  
Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."  
John 11:23
  - a. Jesus could mean Lazarus will rise on the last day
  - b. But He is actually hinting at something more
  - c. He is calling out to Martha's faith to grow
- 5. Martha's orthodox reply  
Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." John 11:24
  - a. Martha expresses faith that Jesus can pray for this
  - b. Expressing orthodox Jewish belief in resurrection
  - c. This was accepted by most Jews (not Sadducees)

## C. Resurrection in the Old Testament

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. <sup>26</sup> And **after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; <sup>27</sup> I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.** How my heart yearns within me! Job 19:25–27

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, <sup>10</sup> because **you will not abandon me to the grave**, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. <sup>11</sup> You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with **eternal pleasures** at your right hand. Psa 16:9–11

On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; <sup>8</sup> **he will swallow up death forever**. Isaiah 25:7–8

But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead. Isaiah 26:19

1. These and other verses taught the resurrection
2. Most Jews therefore believed the dead would rise - on the final day
3. Martha is expressing this faith

#### D. Jesus had spoken of the resurrection

And this is the will of him who sent me, that **I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day**. <sup>40</sup> For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and **I will raise him up at the last day**." John 6:39–40

1. Jesus teaches the resurrection as well - but more
2. Jesus said He would raise them up on last day
3. Not only a resurrection - Jesus will do the raising
4. This is a HUGE step beyond the Old Testament
5. Martha agrees with all this - but Jesus means more

### III. I AM the Resurrection and the Life

#### A. Jesus moves beyond Martha's understanding

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life." John 11:25

1. Jesus does not just teach resurrection - He is resurrection
2. Jesus does not just raise the dead - He is resurrection itself
3. Martha - Resurrection stands in front of you and is talking with you now!!!
4. Martha - eternal life is not in the distant future - I AM eternal life!!!

#### B. True Resurrection and True Life

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will **live**, even though he **dies**; <sup>26</sup>and whoever **lives** and believes in me will never **die**." John 11:25–26

1. Jesus speaks of both **physical** & **spiritual** life/death
2. V25 - '**live**' and '**dies**' - **physical** death & resurrection
  - a. The person dies, but then lives again - resurrection
  - b. Speaking of physical resurrection after death
3. V26 - '**lives**' and '**die**' - **spiritual** life and death
  - a. Obviously only those physically alive can believe
  - b. He means those who are spiritually alive now
  - c. These believe and will never die - spiritually
  - d. When John wrote most disciples already died

- e. Obviously Christians died physically - even Jesus did! But spiritual, eternal death can not touch them!
4. This is the same point Jesus made in John 5:24-25  
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. <sup>25</sup> I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. John 5:24–25
    - a. Time already come that those who are dead hear Jesus voice and live - spiritually dead become spiritually alive
    - b. Parallel with v24 - hear Jesus' word, become spiritually alive, crossed over from death to life now
  5. Jesus guarantees this in the strongest possible terms  
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will **never** die." John 11:25–26
    - a. Prohibitive subjunctive - absolutely will not happen
    - b. There is no possibility that death will conquer us
  6. Union with Jesus brings eternal life now - we will never taste spiritual death for He is the resurrection and the life
  7. Union with Jesus guarantees our resurrection from the dead after physical death, for He is the resurrection and the life

#### C. The proof - Lazarus is raised!

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> 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." John 11:43–44

1. Almost anticlimactic - no long struggle here!
2. When Jesus speaks - even death obeys!
3. When the Resurrection stands at the tomb and calls out, death gives way. When Life speaks, death bends the knee and obeys!
4. Jesus does this to show that He is the Resurrection and the Life, and that His promise to give life to us and raise us from the dead will come true.
5. The issue is not in doubt, the battle has been fought and He has won!
6. And all of this is further sealed when on the day of the resurrection Christ raises Himself from the dead. Even when He allows death to take Him, He can not be held - it is impossible for death to hold life itself.

### IV. Applying the Word of Resurrection and Life

#### A. The central point - do you believe?

1. Jesus' question to Martha in v26  
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. **Do you believe this?**" John 11:25–26
  - a. This is a high point - does Martha believe this?
  - b. Also written for us - will we believe?

2. This is also seen in response of the crowd there  
Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. <sup>46</sup> But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. John 11:45–46

- a. Some saw this and believed - will we?
- b. Some saw this and refused to believe - will we?

3. This is the 7<sup>th</sup>, final and greatest 'sign' in John's Gospel - all given that we might believe

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> **But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.** John 20:30–31

- a. Signs were done and written that we might believe
- b. So - will we believe?

B. Do you believe Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life?

1. Martha believed!

"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." John 11:27

- a. This is the fullest statement of faith in Christ in the Gospel of John
  - b. Martha is being laid out as an example
2. This has all been done that we might believe and have life through Jesus!
3. He turned water to wine, multiplied the loaves, healed the blind and raised the dead - do we believe?

4. He was crucified, dead, and buried - and raised Himself from the dead - do we believe?

5. I urge you to look to Him today - He is not just the way to resurrection and life - He IS the Resurrection and the Life!

6. Come to Him - He is calling you forth from the tomb!

7. Come to Him - and live forever!

### Jesus Is the Resurrection and the Life

John 11:21-27

March 27, 2016

Prayer

Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: name of God; resurrection; faith; gospel; Easter; Lent

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, Hebrews 13:20

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

<sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." John 11:21–27