

SERMON-BASED STUDY: I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

John 11:1-5, 11-53, ESV – Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.”¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.”¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died,¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”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 on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus wept.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, 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 the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs.⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all.⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 What does Jesus' weeping reveal about His nature and His heart for humanity in suffering?
How does this challenge or comfort you in times of struggle or suffering?

2 Martha declared faith before the miracle. How can we express faith in God even when we don't see immediate answers?

3 How does Jesus' declaration, *I am the resurrection and the life*, deepen your understanding of His power and mission?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Romans 6:4-11, ESV** – ⁴*We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

⁵*For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.* ⁶*We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.* ⁷*For one who has died has been set free from sin.* ⁸*Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.* ⁹*We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.* ¹⁰*For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.* ¹¹*So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

4 How does our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection signify our spiritual reality? How should it affect our view of sin?

5 What does Paul mean by, *for one who has died has been set free from sin*? How should this affect the way we live?

6 What does it mean to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God? How do we live this out in our lives?

B **Ephesians 4:25-27, 29, 31-32, ESV** – ²⁵*Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.* ²⁶*Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,* ²⁷*and give no opportunity to the devil.* ²⁹*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.* ³¹*Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.* ³²*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

7 How does our new identity in Christ motivate us to be truthful? What does it look like to *put away falsehood* and to *speak the truth*?

8 How are our words a reflection of our inward transformation from being with Jesus? How can we use our words to build up others and not corrupt?

TAKING IT HOME

This week, we learned that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He brings us out of our old life and brings us into a new life with Him. In doing so, He also empowers us for right living. How are you doing with living according to His power? What old habits do you need to replace with God-honoring practices? Spend some time in prayer, asking God to show you what next steps you need to take in your faith journey.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Isaiah 41:10
Ephesians 5:1-21
Philippians 4:6-7
2 Timothy 1:7