

The Great I Am

I Am The Resurrection & The Life

(Jn 11:17-27)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "The Great I Am."
 - a. We have notice Jesus is the great I Am.
 - i. **Jn 8:58** "
 - b. We have also been looking at the seven "I Am's" of Jesus.
 - i. ...the bread of life
 1. **Jn 6:35**
 - ii. ...the light of the world
 1. **Jn 8:12**
 - iii. ...the door
 1. **Jn 10:7**
 - iv. ...the good shepherd
 1. **Jn 10:11**
 - c. Today we will look at the fifth "I Am" which is...
 - i. I am the Resurrection & the Life.
 1. **Jn 11:25** "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live"¹
3. People have tried to "live longer" for many years.
 - a. We first see a concern for this in the beginning.
 - i. **Gn 3:22-23** "Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken."
 - b. We see it later in Babel.
 - i. **Gn 11:4** "Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.'"
 - c. In modern times we see people...
 - i. Diet – Take vitamins, minerals, herbs, and elixirs to live longer.
 - ii. Exercise – Run, bike, swim, and sweat profusely to live longer.
 - iii. Cryogenics – Freeze ones head in hopes of being able to be resurrected ie live longer.
 1. Ted Williams, the Red Sox slugger, who died in 2002 at 83 years old did this.
4. It is not "just living longer" that is desired.
 - a. "Man desires not just quantity of life, but quality of life." (<http://goo.gl/bKw2k>)
 - i. It is this desire that Jesus address here in our passage today.
5. With that in mind let us examine the lesson for today.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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I. The Background To Jesus' Assertion

- A. Jesus has been informed His friend Lazarus has died
 - 1. **Jn 11:1, 11** "Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha... 11 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.""
 - 2. This was not just anybody but someone with whom Jesus was close.
 - i. He had been to his and his sister's home just prior to the death of Lazarus.
 - a. **Jn 10:38ff**
 - ii. He, it seems, was residing in their home just before the cross.
 - a. **Mk 11:11-14, 19-20**
 - iii. He loved them very much.
 - a. **Jn 11:3, 36**
- B. Jesus upon hearing Lazarus was sick waited two days
 - 1. Why did Jesus wait?
 - i. Some have suggested it was to give enough time that Lazarus would die.
 - a. The messenger traveled to Jesus on the first day.
 - b. Jesus then waited two days after that.
 - c. Jesus and His disciples then traveled the next day to Mary & Martha.
 - 1. $1 + 2 + 1 = 4^{\text{th}}$ day when Jesus got there.
 - d. Lazarus had been dead for 4 days when Jesus got there.
 - 1. **Jn 11:17**
 - e. Thus Lazarus died the day the messenger came so Jesus didn't delay just to wait for Lazarus to die.
 - ii. There was a prevailing Jewish superstition.
 - a. "Rabbinical writings indicate a common superstition among the Jews, that the soul of a deceased hovered around the body for three days in hopes of a reunion with the body, but took its final departure when decomposition began the third or fourth day." (<http://goo.gl/bKw2k>)
 - iii. Thus Jesus was demonstrating his power over even the dead decomposing body bring glory to the Father and Himself.
- C. Jesus then heads to see Mary and Martha
 - 1. Martha comes out to greet Jesus and they have a conversation.
 - i. **Jn 11:21-24** "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.""
 - 2. Here we see the exchange that leads to Jesus' response about being the "resurrection and the life."
 - i. Martha though distraught still has faith in Jesus.
 - a. Her "if" statement is not one of complaint as Lazarus died at the time messenger got to Jesus.

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- b. No this was simply a common survivors "if" statement.
 - 1. If only we had gotten him to the doctor sooner.
 - 2. If only we had opened the window.
 - 3. If only they had stayed at home that day.
 - ii. Martha was doing her best to hold on to Jesus' response to the messenger though she doesn't seem to think it concerned the present.
 - a. **Jn 11:4** "This illness does not lead to death..."
- D. Thus...
- 1. Thus we find our context for this great response of Jesus.
 - i. I am the resurrection and the life.
 - 2. This is a metonymy.
 - i. "a figure of speech consisting of the use of the name of one thing for that of another of which it is an attribute or with which it is associated" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
 - ii. Jesus this is saying of himself...
 - a. "the Worker of resurrection, and the Giver of resurrection life." (Bullinger, E. W. (1898). Figures of speech used in the Bible (562). London; New York: Eyre & Spottiswoode; E. & J. B. Young & Co.)

II. I Am The Worker Of Resurrection

- A. Jesus gave up heaven
 - 1. **Ph 2:6-7** "who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."
- B. Jesus was beaten
 - 1. **Mt 27:27-31** "Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. 28 And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him."
- C. Jesus was murdered
 - 1. **Mk 15:24** "And they crucified him..."
 - 2. **Mt 27:50** "And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit."
- D. Jesus was resurrected
 - 1. **Mt 28:5-6** "But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."
- E. Thus...
 - 1. Jesus truly is the worker of resurrection.

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III. I Am The Giver Of Resurrection Life

- A. Jesus makes some amazing and powerful statements to Martha concerning being the giver of resurrection life
 - 1. **Jn 11:25-26** "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..."
- B. Jesus gives life to the dead
 - 1. The free gift of Jesus was given to us all.
 - i. **Ro 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - ii. **Ti 2:12** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (NKJV)
 - 2. Therefore all that have sinned are dead in their sin until they are made alive in Christ.
 - i. **Ep 2:1, 4-5** "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved"
- C. Jesus gives everlasting life
 - 1. We not only are given resurrection from the death of sin by Christ but we are given life eternal in heaven by Christ.
 - i. **Jn 8:51** "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."
 - ii. **Rv 2:10** "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."

CONCLUSION

- 1. Brethren Jesus truly is the "resurrection and the life."
 - a. Considering all Jesus has done for us I'm reminded of what someone once said about the two shortest verses in the Bible.
 - 1. **Jn 11:35** "Jesus wept"
 - 2. **I Th 5:15** "rejoice evermore."
 - b. Someone rightly said "Jesus wept so we could rejoice evermore."
- 2. Question: Have you been resurrected by Jesus?
 - a. If the answer is continue to live a life that reflects such a glorious truth.
 - b. If not why, not?
- 3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

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- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
- i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**