

JOHN 11:17-27
RESURRECTION LIFE!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 11 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

As we have seen over the last few weeks in our study of John chapter 11, Lazarus, the one that Jesus loved, was sick and this was not just a cold. He was dying.

Because of the seriousness of the situation, the sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha send some family or friends to inform Jesus what has happened to His friend Lazarus.

And as we will see in our study this morning, by the time this person comes to tell Jesus what has happened, Lazarus is already dead, and Jesus is the only one who knows this.

It took one day for this man to get to Jesus. Then, believe it or not, Jesus waited another two days to travel to Bethany and it took another day to get there. So at this point, as we will see, Lazarus has been dead and in the tomb for four days!

Let's face it, we really don't like to talk about death, we don't really want to think about it because of the fear of what happens when a person dies.

And the only solution that man can come up with for this problem is to try and live longer.

Ray Stedman put it like this. He wrote,

One of the strange delusions of our day is the quite unwarranted belief of many that medical science is making great strides in conquering disease and in eliminating or reducing the aging process.

It is true, of course, that people do live longer than they did 25 or 30 years ago, and we are grateful for that. It is also true that science has virtually eliminated certain diseases that once were great killers among us; hardly anyone dies of tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria or smallpox anymore.

On the other hand, however, deaths due to heart disease, cancer, etc., are skyrocketing. The striking fact that no one refers to at all today is that in spite of this apparent progress, the death rate remains exactly what it has always been - a flat 100%!

You can jog, you can avoid cholesterol, you can watch your health and you will end up the healthiest corpse that ever died, because death is still the master of our race and nothing can be done about it.

- <https://bit.ly/3s9FTTV>

Well, that is not exactly true. You see, nothing can be done about it by man's efforts, but as we will see here, Jesus is able to conquer death and because He rose from the grave, one day we too will receive our resurrection bodies, our eternal bodies! Remember what Jesus said in John 14:19, "**... Because I live, you will live also.**"

Jesus is speaking of resurrection life and that is what we will be looking at this morning in a study I have called – ***RESURRECTION LIFE!***

Listen to how Job views life and the brevity of life. He wrote in Job 14:1-2, "**Man who is born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.**"

I know, what an uplifting thought, right?

Maybe you are thinking, *“Hey Pastor Joe, if I really wanted to deal with death, I would have gone to a funeral not to church!”*

That is a good point, but we can’t avoid what is 100% certain, we are going to die one day! And it is not *“if,”* or *“maybe”* or *“could be,”* we will die one day and how we prepare for death has everlasting consequences!

One writer, in dealing with death, put it like this. He wrote, *“Death is the Specter [threat] that haunts the end of the corridor of every person’s life. Death has both mystified and terrified man from the very beginning. It knows no boundaries and is not limited to any one class of people or ethnic group - small or great, rich or poor, young or old - no one escapes its grasp.”*

Not very encouraging, but it is a reality, it is true!

Listen to these encouraging words from Moses in Psalm 90:10, **“The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”**

Thanks for those encouraging words, Moses. Right! And if that is all Moses wrote, it would not be encouraging. But Moses does not leave us in that condition of hopelessness. He goes on to say in Psalm 90:12, **“So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.”**

In other words, help me not to waste the short time I have on this earth but to use my time wisely. Help me to gain a heart of wisdom that even though it is not easy, even though the time of my life seems to just fly away, help me to live in a way that would honor the Lord, to be used fully for Him!

As I have said, the death rate is still one per person and we all will face it one day, it is how we spend the time that God has given us.

You see, you can live 80 or 90 or even 100 years and what you have done in that time is very little if you are doing your own thing.

My biggest prayer for me is that in my life, my family, my friends would see how I live out my faith and it would bring them to saving faith or encourage them to live out their faith in Christ to the fullest as I am trying to do, and I think you probably feel the same way!

Even Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes 2:18-19 about this life and all we can gain and how that works out in the end. He wrote, **“Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.”**

In other words, you work hard all your life. You gain lots of money, lots of possessions and when you do, you can't take it with you and who you leave it to, they may be a fool and they can waste it all away! It is all vanity, emptiness, trying to catch the wind!

May we seek the Lord for direction and in the days that we have left, use them to bring glory to God and a witness to others!

Having the right perspective is so important and to have the right perspective we have to look to the One who numbers our days, the Lord!

What do I mean by that?

It is what the Psalmist said in Psalm 49:15, **“But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me.”**

Or Psalm 48:14 where we are told, **“For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide Even to death.”**

Do you see the perspective that the Psalmist had?

His hope was in God and the same was true with Job as He said, **“For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God.”** Job 19:25-26.

When you have a correct perspective of things your life will reflect that. When you don't, you will be worried, you will be anxious, you will be fearful of what lies ahead!

Like I have said, this morning we are going to look at the topic of – ***RESURRECTION LIFE!***

And I have broken down the verses we will be looking at into four main points and they are,

THE REBUKE – JOHN 11:17-22

A THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE – JOHN 11:23-24

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE – JOHN 11:25-26

DO YOU BELIEVE – JOHN 11:27

So as we pick up our study this morning, Jesus and His men are traveling to Bethany, to the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, the one who was sick and really, he has been dead for four days by the time Jesus gets to Bethany.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 11, beginning in verse 17 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word, and we look at the topic of – ***RESURRECTION LIFE!***

JOHN 11**VERSES 17-22**

Remember that Jesus waited two more days before He arrived at Bethany.

Why did He wait so long?

Why didn't He just go to Bethany right away, when he found out Lazarus was sick?

We are told that He loved Lazarus, that *AGAPE* love or unconditional love He had for this man and yet, He waited!

One reason was that this is going to bring glory to God and to Jesus. And I think the other reason that Jesus waited is because He knew of the Jewish superstition of that day.

What was that superstition that dealt with death?

It said that the soul of the departed one stayed near the grave for three days, hoping to return to the body.

But when the fourth day came around, corruption began and there was no more hope of resuscitation, there was no hope of life! So, at this point there is really no more hope.

I think that is the reason Jesus waited until the fourth day. No hope from a human perspective but with God, all things are possible as we will see as we continue on in this chapter!

Now in verse 19 we are told that “**. . . many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.**”

Keep in mind that the day a person died, they would bury them. And, according to Edersheim, the mourning began immediately.

The first three days were the most intense mourning and many times they would hire professional mourners.

The rest of that week the mourning was less intense, and friends would come by to offer their condolences.

I remember when I was in grade school, I had a Jewish teacher whose parent died and we went to her home to comfort her with a basket of fruit, and all around her were family and friends.

They would do this, for the most part, just like they did it during the time of Jesus.

That is what we are seeing here, I don't know if anyone brought fruit like I did, but they did come by with comfort for the family.

Now, in verse 20 we see that Martha is made aware that Jesus is near-by, and she broke protocol by leaving her home to find Jesus while Mary sat in the home contemplating all that had taken place.

And now we come to the point I want to make and that is – ***THE REBUKE!***

As Martha sees Jesus, she lets Him know of her disappointment in the late arrival by Jesus and I think there is a little rebuke here as well.

She said, "**Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.**" John 11:21.

Have you ever felt that way in situations you have found yourself in?

I am sure you have; I know I have at times. "***Lord, where were you? If you would have just come sooner, done something a little faster I would not be in this mess I am in now!***"

I know, it sounds funny, even foolish but we do feel that way even though we may not say it out loud!

Now it may not be the death of a loved one, but death to any situation we are in, it just doesn't work out like we thought.

In other words, we are blaming God, but God is not at fault, and you do not know what He is going to do in the situation you find yourself in.

Martha is going to find out just as we do many times! Martha had faith for the future but not for the present, and we will see that in a few minutes. Now, in saying that, may we look at the promises of God as not only some future reality, but also for the present circumstances we face!

Now some see what Martha said in John 11:22 as believing that Jesus could resurrect Lazarus, her brother.

That verse says, **“But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”**

As you read that it seems like Martha believed that God could raise her dead brother up from the dead, but that is not exactly correct.

Martha has not given up on Jesus, but I don't think that she is confident that He can raise her brother from the dead because in verse 39, when Jesus tells them to roll the stone away from the door of the tomb, Martha says, **“Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”**

I think we are like Martha many times. We know that God can do the impossible and yet, we pray more fervently for our headache to be healed than for a marriage to be healed!

We know that eventually the headache will go away but the marriage problem, maybe not. In fact, maybe God can't even help in this situation.

And we can apply that to many things, and I think that is what Martha is doing here, not really believing that her brother will be raised!

Keep in mind the words that Martha speaks here, we have already read them, but again, these words are not too hopeful as she says to Jesus, “**But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.**”

As great as that sounds, she did not believe!

We saw – *THE REBUKE* by Martha against Jesus and now, as we read on, we will see – *A THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE!*

And keep in mind, this is how we respond many times as well, just as Martha with – *A THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE!*

VERSES 23-24

Now we talked about this already but let’s think this through once again.

Martha and Mary sent servants or friends to Jesus to let Him know that Lazarus was very sick.

What is my point?

My point is this.

Martha, the one we are looking at here, had faith that Jesus could heal her brother from this sickness. If she didn’t, she would not have called for Him to come, but she did!

She even said, after it was too late in her mind, “**... ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’**” John 11:21.

So she did believe Jesus could heal her sick brother but now that he was dead, she did not have the faith to believe that this was possible.

And notice what Jesus tells her, “**... ‘Your brother will rise again.’**” John 11:23.

Again, she had faith in Jesus to heal her sick brother, but now that he is dead, even after Jesus said that he will be raised again, notice her response. She tells Jesus, **“I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”**

Martha had faith for the future, but she did not have faith for the present situation that she was in and thus, her response to what Jesus said to her about raising Lazarus was – A

THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE!

Jesus was not speaking of some theological issue here, some future event, but what was going to take place here and now and Martha had a hard time understanding that point that Jesus was making, but she will see it shortly!

Now it is easy to come down upon Martha but look at all that she was going through.

This was a close family, and now the loss of a brother hurt Martha very deeply. She was grieving. She was hurting. She had lost hope for the present and looked to the future.

If she had hope for this present situation that she was in, when Jesus said that her brother will live again, her response should have been, ***“Praise the Lord! Thank you, Jesus. How Wonderful you are! I knew you could do it; I have seen you do so many miracles before and this problem here is not more difficult for you to do!”***

Martha is not looking for the immediate resurrection of her brother, but a future one!

Don't we do that today, maybe not looking to the future, although we could, but many times looking at the past.

What do I mean by that?

We see a situation that is beyond any human possibility of it being fixed, healed, solved, whatever the case may be.

And we read of the stories in the Old Testament and even in the New Testament and we feel that these things happened in their day, but it would not, could not happen in our day.

Why can't they?

Because that was the God of the Old Testament, and He does not do those things today?

I don't know, the Bible does say that God is the same yesterday, today and forever and the God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament, right? You bet that is right!

Now you may be thinking, *“Okay, the Old Testament is done, and the New Testament is done, so God just does not work the same today, right?”* That is wrong!

Let me say this. The book of Acts does not end in chapter 28!

I know, some of you are thinking, **“Does Pastor Joe have one of those new translations that have added to the Word of God?”**

No, I don't. But do you really think the book of Acts is completed with the first century church? It is not.

The book of Acts is the birth and the life of the church, and the church is still growing, it is still moving, it is not done and thus, we are writing the stories of the church. You might call it Acts chapter 29 and onward!

God is still working, and I think if you took the time to look over your life as a Christian, you would see the work that God has done, is doing and never forget, will do in your life!

Martha saw this as a theological issue as I have said, but let's think that through, because if we look at this as purely a theological issue, we will miss the point.

Now I am not saying theology, or the study of doctrine is wrong, but if that is as far as it goes, it is wrong. We need to know what the Bible has to say but that is not where it should end!

Think about it like this.

You are very sick, very, very sick. What do you do? Do you pull out a medical book so you can treat yourself? Of course not.

Then what do you do?

You go to a doctor, a physician so that they can treat you because they are qualified to do that, to help you.

Okay, maybe you are not big on doctors, so let me go at this another way.

You are being sued for millions of dollars. What do you do?

Do you go to the library or hop on the Internet to download the latest law book?

Of course not, you go to the expert, you go to a lawyer who is qualified to handle your case.

Okay, maybe you don't like doctors or lawyers, I am striking out here with you. But I do have one more.

You are facing death, your last enemy you might say. Do you want a doctrine written in a book or do you want a Savior who can not only save you from your sins, but raise you up again?

And please understand me here. I am not saying that Bible doctrine is not important. Please don't twist what I am saying.

What I am saying here is that you want that truth of God, found in the Word of God, to become part of your life. You trust what God has said and it is manifested in your life here and now!

Paul wrote in I Corinthians 1:30-31, **“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption - that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.’”**

Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts these verses. It says, **“But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made our Wisdom from God, [revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan of salvation previously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin]. So then, as it is written, Let him who boasts and proudly rejoices and glories, boast and proudly rejoice and glory in the Lord. [Jer 9:24.]”**

Look at all that God has done for us, that is doctrine. We then need to take that and apply it to our lives, live how the Bible tells us to live! And if you lack wisdom, if you are confused, bring it to God and let Him give to you what you need to live out your life!

You see, when you belong to Jesus, you have all that you ever will need in life, death, time, or eternity!

With that perspective, live accordingly and trust that what God has promised, He is more than able to bring to pass!

We have seen that Martha was looking to the future, knowing that Lazarus would be raised again, that she would see him again.

We even see this with the friends of Mary and Martha, that they missed the point as they were looking to the past, **“... ‘Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?’”** John 11:37.

And Jesus wants them to look to the present and I think He wants us to do the same. You see that resurrection power is for us today!

Paul wrote in Romans 6:4, “**Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**”

We will talk more about this resurrection life in a few minutes, but I just want you to see that this is not some *THEOLOGICAL POINT*, it is a *LIVING REALITY!*

And let me say this. In the days we are living in, and I believe we are in the last of the last days, I think many Christians are missing the point.

Yes, we are to be looking for that blessed hope of the Lord coming for His bride, the church, but for many Christians that is their focus and it begins there, and it ends there.

And that is – *A THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE!*

Is it true?

It absolutely is true, the Lord is coming back for His bride, the church!

Does that mean the Rapture is close?

I believe that is exactly what that means.

And the result is that the Lord is coming back, the world is going to hell in a hand basket and thus, let’s just wait? I don’t think so!

You see, we are to occupy until He comes, continue doing the work of the ministry until He comes!

I can’t wait for the Lord to come but I am also concerned about the lost. You see, I know where I am going and things may get more and more intense before the Lord returns, but we should not lose sight of our mission – *THE LOST!*

Let’s not make this a *THEOLOGICAL ISSUE* where we know all the right doctrine, but we don’t apply that doctrine to our lives!

Do you see how important that is?

Jesus is not going to make this just a *THEOLOGICAL ISSUE*, but He is going to make this *A LIVING REALITY!*

That is what Spurgeon had to say as he wrote, *“It is clear that she derived very little consolation from the fact of a distant and general resurrection: she needed resurrection and life to come nearer home, and to become more a present fact to her.”*

So how is Jesus going to make this *A LIVING REALITY* for Martha?

By telling her – *I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!*

VERSES 25-26

We have seen the frustration that Martha had regarding Jesus not making it there in time to save her brother.

We have seen the book information that Martha had about being raised in the last days and she believed that her brother would one day be raised up again. But he is dead right now!

And here is all this confusion, all this doubt, and notice what Jesus tells her. He said, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And who lives and believes in Me shall never die. . . .”** John 11:25-26.

I would have loved to see Martha’s eyes when Jesus said this. I am sure they were wide open as she is trying to take all of this in.

In the midst of all that confusion, Jesus gets her back on track, gives to her a right perspective of the situation. The light of the world shines His light upon this situation for Martha to see!

Ray Stedman put it like this. He wrote,

There is so much God can give us at a time like this. As we listen to this we can see that Martha's faith is placed right where ours often is, in what she thought would happen, not in who Jesus is and whom she is dealing with.

How many times have you said to yourself, "I know God has worked in the past, and I know that he will work again in the future, but today, well, this is not the day of miracles"?

Have you ever felt that way? In the daily grind of life our world seems to be so barren of miracles that we think, "Those days have gone. God can't work now. He will work again, though . . ."

This is Martha's faith - in the future, at the resurrection of the last day, yes, the program of God is certain. Her theology is accurate, but she has forgotten that God is right there in the here and now.

That is what Jesus brings to her attention. Notice how he shifts the focus back from the program to his Person, in the words, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Even in the grammar of this passage the focus is on the first word, "I, I am the resurrection and the life."

Jesus is saying that wherever he is, then anything God ever did or can do can happen!

That is where faith ought to be fastened. That is what we ought to remember.

- bit.ly/3s9FTTV

Absolutely! That is where our faith needs to be, that God can do anything and leave it up to His will and not our will to be done.

Now I want to bring this out as well. Here we see the fifth of seven great ***“I AM”*** statements made by Jesus in this Gospel.

In the Greek, it is the ***EGO EIMI!*** (eg-o’ i-mee’)

Look at these ***“I AM”*** statements made by Jesus here in John.

First, ***“I AM the Bread of Life.”*** (6:35)

Jesus tells us here that He is the spiritual food that we need. He relates Himself to bread to indicate that we must consume His teaching and His lifestyle if we are truly His disciples. In other words, taste and see that the Lord is good! (Psalm 34:8)

Secondly, ***“I AM the Light of the World.”*** (8:12)

Jesus is the only true Light and accepting Him and following Him removes the darkness, such as sin and death, out of our lives. The light of Jesus represents His purity and His holiness. He lights our way so we can see where we are going in this dark world!

Next, the third ***“I AM”*** statement made by Jesus, He says, ***“I AM the Door.”*** (10:7)

Jesus is telling us here that He is the entrance – the entrance into a relationship with God the Father – ***THE ONLY ENTRANCE!***

Fourthly, Jesus says, ***“I AM the Good Shepherd.”*** (10:11,14)

In the Old Testament books such as Zechariah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah, we see God rebuking wicked shepherds. Jesus tells us here that He is the Good Shepherd. A shepherd leads, feeds, and protects his flock, and that’s exactly what Jesus does to those who believe in Him and trust in Him.

Fifthly, what we see here in John chapter 11, Jesus said, **“I AM the Resurrection and the Life.”** (11:25)

Jesus is not telling us that we will avoid a physical death, but rather He is promising us that He is the gateway to an everlasting life and fellowship with God in heaven. And we need to remember that this resurrection life begins the moment we get saved!

We will deal more with this in a few minutes.

But listen to what Spurgeon wrote regarding what Jesus said and what Martha was seeing. He wrote, *“She looked upon the resurrection and the life as things that were to be in some dim and misty future. ‘No,’ says Christ, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Not only do I get these things by prayer from God, but I am these things.’”*

Do you see the difference here?

As Dods reminds us, *“Apart from Him there was neither resurrection nor life.”*

Again, putting this into perspective, as Clarke wrote, *“Thou sayest that thy brother shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day; but by whom shall he arise if not by ME, who am the author of the resurrection, and the source of life? And is it not as easy for me to raise him now as to raise him then?”*

All things are possible with God, never forget that!

Let me continue on looking at these **“I AM”** statements made by Jesus.

The sixth **“I AM”** statement by Jesus is this, where Jesus said, **“I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”** (14:6)

Jesus concluded this **“I AM”** saying by stating that no one can come to His Father, but by Him. Jesus is the way to the eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before the beginning of time. (Titus 1:2)

Jesus is the way because He is the truth, and He is the truth because He is the way. As God incarnate, He is life for all who believe in Him and accept His salvation to eternal life.

Finally, the seventh ***"I AM"*** statement, Jesus said **"I AM the True Vine."** (15:1)

This means that we are connected to Him and if we obey His commandments, we will bear fruit on our branches, in a sense, fruit that will ultimately belong to the vine.

Powerful statements showing that Jesus is Almighty God!

Let me get back to what Jesus said here in John 10:25. Listen again to what He said to Martha, **"I am the resurrection and the life."**

What Jesus said to Martha is something that every one of us will face one day – ***DEATH!***

And like I have said when we opened up our study this morning, death is something that many people fear. They don't want to die so they do everything possible to keep on living.

But think about that. How many people have succeeded in doing that?

None!

We age, we get older, our body wears out, and in the end, you know what happens? You still die!

Regarding immortality, Woody Allen once said, ***"I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not dying."***

But the reality is, we all will die and the only difference in people's lives is where they will spend eternity!

And really, for the believer, he doesn't die, he just moves his residence from these bodies of flesh on the earth to a new body in heaven with the Lord.

That is what Spurgeon wrote, *“Those that believe in Jesus Christ appear to die, but yet they live. They are not in the grave, they are forever with the Lord. They are not unconscious they are with their Lord in Paradise. Death cannot kill a believer, it can only usher him into a freer form of life.”*

And please understand, no matter what man may claim, no matter what man may think or say, only Jesus can make this claim because He is God - **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And who lives and believes in Me shall never die. . . .”** John 11:25-26.

I guess I should clarify that. Man can claim whatever he wants, but it does not make it true. You see, only God can claim this and only God has the power to bring this to pass, man cannot!

Let me break this down and take a closer look at what Jesus is saying here.

First of all, as He speaks of being the resurrection and the life, He tells Martha and us, **“He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”**

What is that speaking of?

He is speaking of physical death and physical resurrection. These bodies of flesh will be raised in glory one day!

He then goes on to tell Martha and us, **“And who lives and believes in Me shall never die. . . .”** First of all, the Bible speaks of believes not dying, but sleeping, in a sense.

But there is more. Then what is the point that Jesus is making here? It almost seems like He is contradicting Himself. First, he said that you will die but you will also live.

And here he speaks of living and never dying. How can that be?

When we come to Christ, we are a new creation, the old things have passed away and all things have become new! (II Corinthians 5:17)

And that life, that abundant life, that resurrection life begins the moment we get saved and it will continue on until we go to be with the Lord.

But what about never dying, that does not make sense. How can that be, that we never die?

Because Jesus is speaking of not only the spiritual life now, but that as a believer we will never experience a spiritual death or what the Bible calls "*the second death.*"

In Revelation 20:6 we are told of this second death as John writes, "**Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such *the second death* has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**"

We have to remember both believers and unbelievers will be raised from the dead, they will get resurrection bodies. Some to everlasting life and some to everlasting separation from God in the Lake of Fire.

And all unbelievers will be a part of the second death.

Let me explain it like this.

If you are born once, you will die twice. But, if you are born twice, you will die once.

What do I mean by that?

Simple.

If you are born into this world and have not come and received the gift of life, you have rejected Jesus, you will die a physical death and you are spiritually dead, causing you to be eternally separated from God, the second death, this spiritual death, in the Lake of Fire for eternity.

If you are born twice, that is born into this world, physical birth and born again, spiritual birth, you will only die once and that is a physical death! There is the blessing!

And so, as you look at the claim that Jesus is making here it is so radical that anyone who would make such a claim is either a liar or a lunatic or He is telling the truth and is Lord.

Guess what?

He is telling the truth because He is Almighty God and He has the right, the power to accomplish these things.

And notice what Jesus does here. He tells Martha, **“Do you believe this?”**

In other words, this is personal, this is for Martha, and it is for each of us, individually. No one can make that decision for us, we must do it, like Martha was invited to do!

Notice that Jesus challenges Martha to believe what He has said, not to debate it or argue about it or rationalize it in her head but believe.

And He does the same with us today.

Make no mistake about it, Jesus never let people remain neutral about Him!

In other words - ***“Do you believe - yes or no?”***

Let’s read on and see how Martha responds to this question that Jesus asked her, **“Do you believe this?”**

VERSE 27

Some see the faith of Martha here as imperfect, weak, and I believe that is true.

But let’s think about that for a minute. How many of us have a faith that is perfect, that is so strong that nothing will stop us?

I don't think any of us have that kind of faith, if we are honest with ourselves. We desire that kind of faith, but we come up short many times.

Remember the story in Mark chapter 9, as Jesus meets this father whose son is demon possessed and he is trying to kill himself. This has been going on for years and this father has to watch his son to protect him.

And he asks Jesus to heal his son. And Jesus tells this man to believe and you have to love the response of this man, because I think that is the passion of our hearts as well.

In Mark 9:24 we are told, **“Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’”**

He believed a little and he wanted to believe more and thus, he asks God to help his faith to grow. Why? Because it only takes a little faith for God to move mountains, but no faith won't move a stone!

If you are lacking faith, ask God to increase your faith and then believe in His promise.

Listen again to what Martha says. She said, **“... ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’”**

Martha makes three great statements. That Jesus is the Messiah. That He is God. And lastly, that He stands before her in this world.

Remarkable statements by this woman, while His apostles had a hard time with these things.

Remember what this is all built upon, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And who lives and believes in Me shall never die. . . .”** John 11:25-26.

There are four points I would like to focus on here and then I will close.

The first is – ***THE PERSON – GOD!***

Notice what Jesus says, **“I am the resurrection and the life . . .”**

Jesus is claiming to be God and I should not say claiming, He is God and the Jewish religious leaders understood what He was saying. In fact, His ministry was built upon that fact!

We saw that in John 5:18 where John tells us, **“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”**

In John 8:58-59 we are told, **“Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’ Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”**

They took up stones to stone Jesus because He claimed to be the *Great I AM*, Almighty God!

And in John 10:31-33 we are told, **“Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, ‘Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?’ The Jews answered Him, saying, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.’”**

Jesus claimed to be God, the Jewish religious leaders could not accept that and thus, they wanted to stone Jesus, put Him to death for blasphemy, because He, being a man, made Himself equal with God.

The problem for these Jewish religious leaders was that they were wrong, He was God, He is God, and He will always be God!

So the first point is this - ***THE PERSON – JESUS IS GOD – THE GREAT I AM!***

The second point is – ***THE PATH – BELIEF!***

Notice what Jesus says next, “**. . . He who believes in Me . . .**”

Believes in what?

That Jesus is Almighty God, the Savior of the World or as Jesus put it in John 8:24,

“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins.”

The Living Bible puts this verse like this, **“That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am the Messiah, the Son of God, you will die in your sins.”**

Make no mistake about it, faith is the way or Jesus is ***THE PATH*** that a person must take to have eternal life, but not just any faith. It must be faith in Jesus Christ!

Remember what Jesus said in John 14:6, **“ . . . ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”**

You see, apart from Jesus you will never see God the Father, or I should say you will see Him in judgment and then you will be eternally separated from Him!

And it is a belief that changes our life, because even the demons believe in Jesus, but they are not saved. When God gets a hold of our lives, we move from running from God to running to God and following Him. Not perfect faith, but a faith that is based in Jesus Christ, that He is Almighty God, the Savior of the world!

So the second point is this – ***THE PATH IS BELIEF IN JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY WAY OF SALVATION!***

The third point is – ***THE PROMISE – WE SHALL LIVE – NEVER DIE!***

What do I mean by that?

We did cover this already but listen again to what Jesus said to Martha and to us, “... though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. . .”

When you look at all the promises that God has given to us in the Bible, the most important one, the one that is supreme over all the others is the promise of eternal life!

And this is important. That promise is for those who believe in Jesus and receive Him as their Lord and Savior!

This is not for those who don't believe or have not asked Him to be Lord and Savior of their lives. Their eternal life will be separated from God in outer darkness!

Look at this promise of eternal life with God given to us in Ephesians 1:13-14, for example, “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

And in I John 2:25 John tells us, “And this is the promise that He has promised us - eternal life.”

What a precious promise that Jesus has given to us.

So the third point is simple and it is precious to us - *THE PROMISE – WE SHALL LIVE – WE SHALL NEVER DIE - THAT EVERLASTING LIFE WE HAVE WITH CHRIST!*

And the last point is this – *THE POWER – DO YOU BELIEVE?*

That is what Jesus asked Martha and it is what He is asking us, “... Do you believe this?”

Yes, believing in Jesus is important, but like I have said, even the demons believe, and they are not saved.

What Jesus is speaking of here is receiving Him into your life and the evidence for that is by you committing your life to Him!

Remember what John said in John 1:12, “**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.**”

Let me try to explain it like this.

The marriage relationship. I can believe that it is precious, beautiful, but that is meaningless unless I believe it to the point of commitment, or I pledge my love and loyalty to a member of the opposite sex!

And that is true in our relationship with Jesus. Unless you take that step and invite Him into your life, it is an empty relationship!

Thus – ***THE POWER THAT GIVES US ETERNAL LIFE IS JESUS AS WE REPENT OF OUR SINS AND ASK HIM TO BE LORD AND SAVIOR OF OUR LIVES!***

And I will close with this.

Jesus is not just ***A SAVIOR!***

And what I mean by that is that Jesus is not the many ways or roads that a person travels on to get to God! He is not just ***A SAVIOR!***

Not just that, but Jesus is not just ***THE SAVIOR!***

I know, that is shocking, but He must be more than just the only way to God and that will lead us to where everyone of us must be, where we must come to! We must make this personal!

You see, Jesus must be ***MY SAVIOR, YOUR SAVIOR!***

And I will leave you with this, I promise.

Jesus said, “**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?**” John 11:25-26.