

A Journey with Christ the Messiah I AM the Resurrection and the Life

John 11:1-45

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we left John 10 where Jesus said "I AM the Door of the Sheep" and then He continued also to say "I AM the Good Shepherd". This morning we move on to the fifth I AM where Jesus says "I AM the Resurrection and the Life".

I don't want to repeat what I have preached before, but I want to remind you that when Jesus Christ says "I AM" He is making a direct reference back to Moses in the Old Testament. God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and sent him to nation of Israel. Moses asked God, "Whom shall I say has sent me?". And the answer that God gave to him was **Yahweh (I AM)**. That is the "I AM" has sent you.

Jesus is making a direct reference to God's answer to Moses with His "I AM" statements. In so doing, Christ is declaring that He is coequal with God and that is because He **IS** God. In yet another confrontation with the Pharisees, Jesus proclaimed this to them.

John 8:58-59 (NASB)

58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

Jesus was reaching all the way back. Before Moses, before Abraham, before Adam, before all creation, and stated that the I AM existed. The Pharisees understood perfectly what Jesus was claiming to be Messiah and God. But despite the miracles He was performing in front of them, He always received a violent response from them.

Such a statement, if not true, was blasphemy and the punishment prescribed by the Mosaic Law was death. **But Jesus committed no blasphemy because what He was telling them was true!** He was, is and always will be God. He is the Christ (the prophesied Messiah), the Son of the living God, and the Son of man. He **IS** coequal to the Father in every way!

Our scripture reading this morning is somewhat lengthy, but as I contemplated what portions to read, I decided to read all 45 verses because the Holy Spirit can tell the story much more accurately than I could ever describe it!

Let's continue the journey!

All Stand and Read Scripture

John 11:1-45 (NASB)

11 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³ So the sisters sent *word* to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." ⁴ But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days *longer* in the place where He was. ⁷ Then after this He *said* to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples *said* to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ This He said, and after that He *said* to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep." ¹² The disciples then 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 was speaking of literal sleep. ¹⁴ So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him." ¹⁶ Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to *his* fellow disciples, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him."

¹⁷ So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now 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 Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. ²¹ Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² Even now I know that whatever You ask of 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; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" 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."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she *got* up quickly and was coming to Him.

³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him. ³¹ Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 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." ³³ When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her *also* weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, ³⁴ and said, "Where have you laid him?" They *said* to Him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews were saying, "See how He loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?"

³⁸ So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, *came* to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus *said*, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, *said* to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been *dead* four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus *said* to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² I knew that You always hear Me; but

because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.”⁴³ When He had said these things, He cried out with a **loud** voice, “**Lazarus, come forth.**”⁴⁴ The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him.

May God add His blessing on the reading of His precious Word!

As we prepare to continue this journey, let's bow in a word of prayer.

Prayer

BODY:

In order to fully appreciate this story you must put yourself in the shoes of Mary and Martha who were sisters of Lazarus. They had sent a messenger to Jesus to tell Him that Lazarus was sick. We learn from the scriptures that they were not just casual friends, but that they were very close friends. **5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.**

Jesus had chosen to tarry two more days where He was before going to them.

Now Lazarus was dead. Their brother had died. Someone they dearly loved. They had grown up with him and played with him, and fought with him. All of us in some way have experienced this same sorrow. If not specifically a brother or sister, maybe another family member such as your mom or dad or grandmother or grandfather or even your own son or daughter. The death hurt because it was a loss of family. These two sisters were hurting. Their hearts were heavy and they were saddened. They had lost their brother. Lazarus was dead! They were saddened because they had sent for Jesus to come and He had tarried. They had seen their brother pass away and then some four days later, Christ appears.

We would do well if we would stop and put ourselves in the place of these broken hearted ladies and consider the grief that they were under.

There is a **declarative statement** in the middle of this narrative by the Lord Jesus Christ. He spoke what I believe might be one of the most powerful words that could ever be heard by human ear. We find it in verse 25 where Jesus says:

John 11:25a (NASB)

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “**I AM the Resurrection and the Life;...**

What a wonderful and comforting statement this is! Those of you who KNOW the saving grace of God know that there is NOTHING on earth that will comfort the heart of one who is hurting and bereaved over the loss of a loved one like the comfort we have of KNOWING that Christ **IS "The Resurrection and the Life"!**

In the midst of this heart wrenching time these two ladies were turning to the only One Who could help and provide comfort. That was the Lord Jesus Christ! He reassures them

of some of the most profound words you will ever read **"I AM the Resurrection and the Life"**!

Someone has said, "Either He is a lunatic, or a liar, or HE IS LORD! Just imagine if you were to have someone today come up to you and say the words that Jesus said "I AM the Light of the World. I AM the Bread of Life. I AM the Door of the Sheep. I AM the Good Shepherd. I AM the Resurrection and the Life."

Someone who did not know Him and know Who He was would consider Him a lunatic or at least a liar. But those of us who have been brought into the fold of God have been taught that HE IS **INDEED** the Light of the World and **HE IS** the Bread of Life and **HE IS** the Door of the Sheep and **HE IS** the Good Shepherd. We also believe that **HE IS** the Resurrection and the Life!

Having been taught these truths and by God's grace through the indwelling of the Spirit of God now understand these truths, we find **GREAT COMFORT** in these words. We know that He **IS NO Lunatic** and He **IS NOT a Liar**. But He is **INDEED** Lord!

John 11:6-8 (NASB)

6 So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days *longer* in the place where He was. **7** Then after this He *said* to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." **8** The disciples *said* to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?"

Jesus no doubt reminded His disciples that He is on earth to do the works of the Father. He could also have told them that they are not going to lay a hand on Me because my time has not yet come. My hour will come, but it has not come yet.

Listen how Jesus explained to His disciples why Lazarus was sick.

John 11:4 (NASB)

4 But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

Jesus was simply doing the will of His Father. He knew that He must tarry and allow Lazarus to die because God was using this event that men might believe that He IS the Messiah.

Martha heard that Jesus was coming and she ran to meet Him. I want you to listen to the great words of faith that Martha, and even Mary later, said to Jesus.

John 11:21b (NASB)

21...**"Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.**

Now that is a statement of faith! Isn't it? Martha truly believed that had Jesus been there earlier, He would have prevented Lazarus from dying. She believed that had Jesus had been there, Lazarus would still be alive right now. She had seen Jesus do great things. She had seen Him raise the dead, He had given sight back to the blind. He had made the lame to walk again. He had walked on water. He had fed the 5000 from five loaves and two fish. She understood His power.

Then listen to what she told Jesus next...

John 11:22 (NASB)

²² Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

Imagine the faith that it would require to be able to say those words. If you had been here, I know that my brother would not be dead, but in addition to that I know that You can ask of God and God will grant it.

May God give **us** faith like that! May God give us the faith to say "Lord, I have seen great things you have done and I know that you can STILL do great things! For our loved ones who are away from God and our community around us who need to know God. Let us have the faith that can say, "Lord, I know that if you will intervene for us, You can turn them around. I know that even now they are not beyond your reach."

And then Jesus said to her.

John 11:23 (NASB)

²³ ...Martha... “Your brother will rise again.”

That is enough right there to stop and say "Praise God!" for the incredible fact that there is a resurrection. "Your brother will rise again." You must understand that Jesus knew full well His intent for delaying His coming. Remember in verse 4 , He told His disciples that “This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.”

John 11:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe;

Jesus speaks to Martha and says, "Your brother will rise again." Not only is He going to raise him from the dead in a few minutes, but we also know that there is a resurrection coming for the lamb of God.

I can look around this morning pew by pew to all of you who have set by the gravesides of loved ones and continue to do so. I can promise you that your loved one, your brother, your sister, your mom, your dad, your spouse, your child, or whoever it may be, if Jesus was their shepherd, THEY HAVE JUST GONE TO SLEEP.

That is what Jesus said about Lazarus. **He has fallen asleep.** Physical death is not the end of existence, it is just a rest for the child of God. I can tell you with absolute certainty that your loved one who died in faith with Christ will rise again.

It is the same glorious power that stood in front of the tomb of Lazarus and called out his name that will raise up our bodies and the bodies of our loved ones on that blessed and great resurrection morning. Your loved ones in Christ will rise again.

ILLUSTRATION:

I stood by my dad's grave and was able to believe with as much assurance as anyone could possibly have that he will rise again to meet the Lord in the last day. There is great assurance in that faith! I miss my dad, but I honestly do not grieve over his death because I know that he is just asleep and that he will rise again in the last day and begin an eternal life with God.

²⁴ Martha *said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

That in and of itself is a great statement to be believed and said by anyone.

Martha said at some distant time in the future, I know that he will rise in the resurrection. And Jesus said that you do not need to look at some distant time in the future, you need to look at right now "I AM the Resurrection". **Look at ME!** There is a glorious day coming when the saints of God shall rise. We will be called up and snatched out of here. There **IS** a resurrection coming, **but** we must also note what Jesus is saying to Martha that **HE is** the Resurrection. The only reason that we have hope for that resurrection is because Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.

Martha stood before Jesus making all of the statements of truth, not realizing what was about to happen. Her mind was looking forward to the future resurrection. As she was looking forward to the future, Jesus would bring her back to the present because He is beginning to prove to her and all that are there that **He** is the Resurrection and the Life.

CONCLUSION:

John 10:27-28 (NASB)

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

When you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior and are immersed in the waters of baptism, you experience a "new birth" and take on a "new life" in Christ. What Jesus gives in the "new birth" is eternal life. Lazarus was lying there in the grave totally unable to do the first thing to raise himself. There had to be an outside force that will enable him to do what he could not do on his own.

So it is in the "new birth". Before we know Christ, we are spiritually dead because of our sin. We, like Lazarus, were dead. Our spiritual death in sin has caused us to stink! There **must** be an outside force that GIVES us the life giving gifts of repentance and faith that we cannot do on our own. Jesus comes and **RESURRECTS** us out of the waters of baptism and gives us **LIFE**. Only He can do that because **only He** is the Resurrection and the Life.

Consider this: There cannot be a resurrection without death. **We are guaranteed resurrection because Jesus, the "I AM", died on the cross! He had to die so we could live!** When we die, we are absent from the body and present with the Lord. When Christ comes, He is going to raise up those bodies. Our spirit will be reunited with our body and our body will be changed to an immortal body in Christ's perfect image. And we will be in the presence of God for eternity.

John 11:25-26 (NASB)

*25... "I AM the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me will live **even if he dies**, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

I ask you the same question Jesus ask Martha. Do you believe this?

May Martha's answer be yours as well.

John 11:27 (NASB)

*27 ... "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, *even* He who comes into the world."*

He is Lord!