

CHRIST THE RESURRECTION

April 3, 2016

John 11:1-27

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” John 11:25, 26

Jesus’ friend Lazarus was dead. He had been dead four days. During the illness that preceded his death, Lazarus’ sisters Mary and Martha sent word to Him that their brother was sick. They believed Jesus could heal him (11:21). But Jesus delayed coming, knowing that Lazarus would die, and that the developing scenario would bring glory to God (11:4).

As Jesus approached Bethany, Lazarus’ home, Martha met Him. She exclaimed that had Jesus been present Lazarus would not have died, and expressed confidence that God would give Jesus whatever He requested (11:21, 22). Jesus’ response was instructive. Whereas God would give Jesus what He requested, such request was not necessary. Rather, Jesus Himself possessed the power of resurrection and of life. He did not have to request these things from God—they were already His.

He affirmed this by a very simple statement, which had two parts. First, He took the title of Jehovah as His own, saying “I am.” By this title, Jehovah had revealed Himself to Moses centuries earlier as the self-existent deliverer of God’s people (Exodus 3:14). Second, He affirmed why it was not necessary for Him to ask God to raise Lazarus to life: because He is “the resurrection and the life.”

John’s report of this event gives us three matters to consider:

I. The Resurrection Anticipated: “I know that he shall rise again at the resurrection” (v. 24).

Martha’s embraced the knowledge that Lazarus would rise again at some future day; that God would bring His people alive from their graves. This has been the comfort of God’s people throughout the ages. Scripture speaks of the believer’s death and resurrection with the knowledge “that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope,” and the instruction “wherefore comfort one another with these words” (I Thessalonians 4:13, 18).

II. The Resurrection Appearing: “I am the resurrection, and the life” (v. 25).

Jesus responded to Martha’s anticipation, affirming that the resurrection is not an event, but a person. He is the resurrection and the life. Wherever He appears, resurrection occurs; it is simply a by-product of His presence. He is life. Thus, in His presence death cannot hold its prey.

III. The Resurrection Attained: “whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die” (v.

26).

Those who die believing in Jesus Christ, still live. And those who possess Christ's life by faith will never know the second death: eternal judgment in the lake of fire. (See John 5:24-29).