

March 31, 2024 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier
John 11:1-27 – “The Resurrection and the Life”

A. In the OT, God is known by many fascinating names. Because He and the Father are one, Jesus is also known by many glorious titles. As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus this Easter morning, we will explore how Jesus called Himself, **“the resurrection and the life.”**

B. John the apostle gave the purpose for writing his gospel toward the end of his account. → **Jn 20:30-31**

Put your faith in Jesus who is the resurrection and the life.	I. THE PURPOSES FOR THE DEATH OF LAZARUS II. JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE
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I. **THE PURPOSES FOR THE DEATH OF LAZARUS**

A. In **v4**, Jesus said Lazarus acquired a sickness **“for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.”**

1. Because Lazarus died, some may have questioned the words of Jesus when He said that his sickness wasn't to **“end in death.”**
 - a. This was a precursor to what was going to happen. Lazarus was not going to remain dead.
 - b. Jesus was going to glorify the Father and Himself as He was demonstrated to be the eternal Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah.
2. Jesus spoke of Lazarus falling asleep yet later plainly said that he died (**vv11-14**).

B. Instead of going to Lazarus right away to heal him when He heard that Lazarus was sick, Jesus **“stayed two days longer in the place where He was” (v6)**. — Jesus explained why He did this. → **vv14-15**

C. Next, Jesus met with Martha who desired for Jesus to have come sooner. → **vv17-21**

1. Jesus was precisely aware when Lazarus would die.
2. His purpose was to demonstrate Himself as the resurrection and the life to His disciples, to Mary and Martha, and the Jews who had come to comfort the sisters.
3. Like Martha, we struggle with our loved ones undergoing suffering, pain, and death. Keep in mind that our God has a reason for it all.
 - a. We know this world is not paradise. Because of the sin of our first parents, we live in an estate or condition of sin, misery, illness and death.
 - b. **Deut 29:29** says, **“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”**
 - c. In our lives, these matters often remain as the **“secret things”** which belong to the Lord.
 - d. In this case with Lazarus, Jesus ordained this tragedy to reveal Himself to us.

II. JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

- A. In v22, Martha appeared to have faith that Jesus could raise her brother from the death. →v22
- B. Jesus told Martha what He was preparing to do for her brother. →vv23-24
1. Understandably, Martha misinterpreted when Jesus said her brother would rise again. She didn't know the Master's intention in that statement.
 2. Martha's response was theologically correct and one of the best comforts when we have lost a loved one.
 - a. Even now when you or I have lost a loved one who had steadfast faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, we can and should say like Martha, **"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."** She was speaking of resurrection to everlasting life.
 - b. Earlier in John's gospel, Jesus spoke of how all mankind will be raised from the dead, yet not all would be raised to eternal life. → Jn 5:25-29
- C. After Martha gave her proclamation of her faith concerning the resurrection, Jesus then gloriously revealed Himself to Martha. →vv25-27
1. This is another glorious **"I am"** statement of Jesus.
 - a. Earlier Jesus said, **"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst" (Jn 6:35).**
 - b. Without food, we die. In a spiritual sense, without Jesus as our sustenance, we will die. Here Jesus again said that He is our life.
 2. Regarding v25, Dr. William Hendrickson wrote, "Both the resurrection and the life are rooted in him... Jesus is the resurrection and the life *in person*... As such he is also the cause, source, or fountain of the believers' glorious resurrection and of their everlasting life. Because he lives we too shall live."
 3. Jesus said to Martha, **"everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"**
 - b. This is one of the greatest questions anyone can ever ask you!
 - c. If you live and believe in Jesus, you will never die.
- D. Jesus proved Himself to be the resurrection and the life when **"He cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth.' The man who had died came forth (vv43-44).**
- E. Jesus proved Himself to be the resurrection and the life when He rose again from the dead on the third day as He promised.
1. He ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father as our great High Priest to perpetually make intercession for us.
 2. Because He lives, we too shall live. Upon His return, His sheep will be raised to a resurrection of eternal life.

Review, further application, and conclusion: