

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

John 11:26-27

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If Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life how does that affect the way we live now in this painful world?

John 11:1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

11 "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." 12 The disciples 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 meant taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, 15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

That is the FIRST TRUTH we need to grasp onto.

This is what Paul is saying in Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

21 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."

Martha is a religious Jewish woman and is quick to repeat typical Jewish doctrine. Resurrection was the common belief of the Pharisees and they were the predominate teachers in Israel.

The Pharisees believed in the resurrection to they were "fair you see."

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection so they were "sad you sees".

There is a SECOND TRUTH about Jesus we need to appropriate from this text.

Like Martha, way too often, when faced with overwhelming issues in life, we go back to Biblical verses that support our worldview. Here is one I often hear from parents whose adult children have rejected Jesus and the church even though they were raised in the church.

"Raise up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he won't depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

HOWEVER what it means is slightly different than we assume: The point of this verse: **It's not a guarantee** because we all have free will, but it is the best path to give children a clear avenue to the truth.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Did you notice that Jesus isn't content with Martha's answers about the future resurrection? Jesus is telling Martha, ***"I'm not just the one who speaks about and points to the resurrection. I AM THE RESURRECTION."***

Here is the THIRD TRUTH we learn from this passage:

It's not enough to be spiritual or religious or go to church or believe there is life after death. There is only one way to be resurrected to life and life eternal. **JESUS**

We've seen it over and over again in these "I am" statements.

"I am the light of the world."

"I am the bread of heaven."

"I am the resurrection and the life."

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!

Jesus says, ***"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."***

The last half of verse 25, where he says, ***"Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,"*** is an explanation of, ***"I am the resurrection..."*** And I understand verse 26: ***"...everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die"*** as the explanation of ***"I am the life."***

In Jesus, you are raised from the dust of the ground, never to return to it again! **You're resurrected to live forever!** It's not just a promise for the future. It's a promise for now. ***"Everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die,"*** he says.

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Oh, And When I Come To Die
And When I Come To Die, Give Me Jesus*

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