

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

I. IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?

- A. This is one of those basic questions that has been asked since the beginning of time.
 - 1. We don't think about these questions all the time, yet we can never escape them. We might leave a party full of people, and when you get home, you're all by yourself and begin to ponder these questions:
 - a. "Is this all there is? Or is there something more?"
 - b. "What is life all about?"
 - c. "Why am I here?"
 - d. "What happens when I die?"
 - e. "Is there life after death?"
- B. Early in history, In one of the oldest books of literature that we have, the book of Job, there was a man named Job who received news about the tragic death of his ten children, and he asked the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?...", or more literally, "If a man die, does he go on living?" ([Job 14:14](#)).
 - 1. As Job was trying to deal with the grief, he asked the question: "*If a man die, shall he live again?*" or, "Does he go on living?"
 - a. The thought being: "If I knew that this wasn't the end, I can deal with these feelings of sorrow and grief that I have!"
 - 2. **NOTE:** For Job, there was no answer, only the question.
- C. Later on in history, there was the age of philosophy, where the philosophers were seeking to answer these questions and the reasons for life and death, and the possibility of life after death. But, like Job, there were only questions, but no answers.

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

- D. The Old Testament gave a few references to an afterlife.
1. Cf. **Daniel 12:2** - *"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."*
 2. Cf. **Psalm 16:10** - *"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."*
 3. Cf. **Psalm 22:26** - *"All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: **all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him**: and none can keep alive his own soul."*
 4. Cf. **Psalm 23:4-6** - *"**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me**; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: **and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**"*
 5. Cf. **Psalm 49:15** - *"But **God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave**: for he shall receive me. Selah."*
 6. Cf. **Isaiah 26:19** - *"Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead."*
 7. Cf. **Hosea 13:14** - *"**I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death**: O death, I will be thy plagues; **O grave, I will be thy destruction**: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes."*
- E. During the time that the Age of Philosophy was dying, in this little village called Bethany, on the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem, there were two sisters who were grieving because their brother had died, which brings us to our Text...
1. These two sisters, Mary and Martha, had a close relationship with Jesus, and when their brother Lazarus was dying, the sent word to Jesus to hurry up and get there.

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

- a. They had seen Jesus heal people before and heard of the many miracles that He did.
 2. Jesus waited a couple days to leave, and did not immediately respond to their request. By the time he took the two-day journey to Bethany and finally arrived, His friend Lazarus had already been buried four days earlier.
 3. The mourners had heard that Jesus was in town, and word got to Martha, so she rushed down to meet Jesus (v. 20-23).
- F. **NOTE:** It is in our Text that we see Jesus give a straight forward, clear answer to the question of life after death (v. 25-26).

II. JESUS'S ANSWER: "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE"

(25) Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

(26) And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

- A. WAIT A MINUTE!! Is Jesus claiming that if we live and believe in Him, we'll never die?!...!
- B. **NOTE:** THERE ARE TWO BIBLICAL DEFINITIONS OF DEATH:
 1. The separation of your spirit from your body.
 - a. This is the typical definition that we use today of death, when the consciousness of a person is separated from their body. We say that they are dead.
 2. The separation of man's consciousness from God.
 - a. The Bible says that if you live without a consciousness of God, you're dead.
 - 1) The Bible mentions those who live only for pleasure as "dead while they yet live" (1 Tim. 5:6).

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

- 2) Cf. **Ephesians 2:1** - The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, "*He made you alive that were once dead in your trespasses and sins.*"
- C. **KEY:** Jesus is speaking of the SECOND DEFINITION! He's basically saying, "You will never be consciously separated from God if you live and believe in Me!"

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life:"

- A. THIS IS A RADICAL CLAIM!!
1. Jesus is telling her that the resurrection is NOT just an event in the future, but that the Resurrection is a PERSON!!
 - a. **NOTE:** Jesus is NOT saying, "I WILL BE the resurrection," but "I AM the Resurrection!"
 - b. **KEY:** Jesus is actually using the Name of God given to Moses (**Exodus 3:14**), thus making Himself equal with God.
- B. **Q** = Can you imagine anyone else in all of history making this claim?...
1. **KEY:** This claim by Jesus is so radical, that **He is either a LUNATIC, a LIAR, or He is THE LORD, THE SON OF GOD!**

"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?"

III. "DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?"

- A. **Today, there are many ideas about God and what people need.**
1. We are told today that:
 - a. The modern, scientific man is too sophisticated to take the Bible literally, and it's better understood as allegory and moral principles to live a good, healthy life.

John 11:25-26 | “The Resurrection and the Life”

- b. God is too vast to be confined to human language, and we can't really know God.
 - c. We can't know if God is personal or not.
 - d. There are no moral absolutes.
 - e. People just need to feel loved and accepted.
 - f. If religion helps people, cool. Just don't push it on me.
2. People today say that there is no use in teaching these old truths. They say that people are not interested in these things anymore. We have a new mentality since we're in a new age where people are too sophisticated for these things.
- a. They say that today we cannot accept a literal, bodily resurrection. That would be a miracle, and in our modern scientific age, we know that miracles don't happen, they say.

B. The reality is, the Eternal God HAS REVEALED Himself to man.

- 1. God chose a man (Abraham) through whom He made a certain Nation by which He would speak to the world.
- 2. Then, God chose certain men out of this Nation and gave them DIRECT REVELATION of Himself.
 - a. God revealed Himself to the Old Testament prophets who wrote down what God spoke (**Heb. 1:1**).
 - b. **KEY:** There was only one Nation who had the explanation of the Origins of Man and his history — the Nation of Israel.
 - 1) God chose the Jewish people to receive His written Word (**Rom. 3:2**).

C. God also gave REVELATION CONCERNING HUMANITY.

John 11:25-26 | “The Resurrection and the Life”

1. It was to the Jewish people that God revealed the Fall of Man and the Sinful Nature of Man — that man, by nature, deserves God’s wrath and judgment because his rebellion against God.
 - a. The Old Testament reveals God’s holiness and His threats of judgment and death because of his sin.

D. However, God also revealed that, although man rebelled against His goodness and His love, HE HAD A PLAN OF REDEMPTION TO SAVE AND RESCUE MAN AND TO SAVE HIM FROM ETERNAL TORMENT. HE PROMISED A MESSIAH!!

1. The Old Testament was the History of a Nation who would prepare the way for the time when the Messiah, the promised Rescuer and Savior, would come as a descendant of Abraham, and a descendant of David, and that He would die for the sins of the world, be resurrected again the third day, and rule on earth as King!

E. Then, as the Old Testament had predicted, JESUS OF NAZARETH SHOWS UP IN HISTORY AND CLAIMS TO BE THE MESSIAH, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

1. **The Jesus of the Bible, who we are reading about this morning, is THE HISTORICAL PERSON, JESUS OF NAZARETH.**
 - a. **NOTE:** Christianity is based in HISTORY, not Philosophy!
 - b. **KEY:** If the resurrection of Christ is something that historically happened, then it takes it out of the realm of philosophy and what people think, and it puts it in the realm of history, which makes it a reality!
 - 1) It doesn’t matter what ideas people have if it really happened!

2. He was PROVED to be of God.

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

- a. He demonstrated miracles, healing the blind, cleansing the lepers, feeding 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish, etc...
- b. He raised other people from the dead.

3. He **PREDICTED** His death on the Cross and His Resurrection.

- a. Cf. **Mark 8:31** - *"And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."*
- b. Cf. **John 10:17-18** - *"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."*
- c. Cf. **Matthew 12:38-40** - *"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*
- d. Cf. **John 2:18-22** - *"Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said."*

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

4. JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS, WAS BURIED, AND LITERALLY ROSE FROM THE DEAD, JUST AS WAS PREDICTED!

- a. **Q** = Is it possible that people today will believe in a literal, physical resurrection of Jesus?...
- 1) There are those who say, "That can't have literally happened. Of course He couldn't have risen in the body, and they were primitive people who believed in miraculous nonsense." However, if that is your position, this is all I have to say to you: "You are in an INCONSISTENT POSITION."
 - a) You might say, "Well, I believe in the teaching of Jesus, and His ethical stances in the Sermon on the Mount. Of course, I don't believe in His miracles, or His virgin birth, or that He literally rose in the body."
 - b) **Q** = How do you believe in Jesus at all? Where have you gotten this information from?... You get it from the Apostles!! These are the men who say they were eyewitnesses of the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus in the body!
 - c) **Q** = If you don't believe the Apostles about the resurrection of Christ, then why do you believe them about anything at all?!...
 - i. **KEY:** Either you accept ALL that they said, or NONE of it!

5. THE EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY.

- a. The Apostles, those men chosen by Jesus, preached that Jesus died on the Cross, was buried, and rose again on the third day!
- 1) **KEY:** The testimony of the Apostles was that Jesus Christ rose from the dead! And every one of them

John 11:25-26 | “The Resurrection and the Life”

suffered great persecution and were killed for their testimony!

- b. Jesus appeared to over 500 people at one time (1 Cor. 15:6), and most of them were still alive at the time of writing.
- c. There were even those who were hostile to Jesus before the resurrection, but afterwards became followers who suffered greatly and were even martyred.
 - 1) Saul of Tarsus claimed to see the risen Lord, and it completely transformed his life, and he became known as the Apostle Paul.
 - a) He was a religious Jew that was persecuting Christians, and even had some of them imprisoned and killed for their faith in Christ.
 - b) However, his life was completely different after he met the risen Christ on the road to Damascus, and he suffered greatly for the gospel of Christ.
 - 2) James, the half-brother of Jesus, didn't believe until after the resurrection.

6. THE EMPTY TOMB.

- a. After the third day, anybody could have gone to the Tomb for themselves to see that there was no body in it!
- b. **Q** = What happened to the body?...
 - 1) The disciples couldn't have stolen it.
 - a) There were a group of Roman centurion, the Navy Seals of the day, that were guarding the Tomb.
 - 2) The Jews didn't take it.

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

- a) They could have stopped the Apostles' message right away if they produced a body, but they couldn't!
- 3) The Romans didn't take it.
 - a) Otherwise they would have produced the body to stop the uproar of the crowds.
- c. **KEY:** Nobody could produce a body! It was not there! It was GONE!!!
- d. **KEY:** The only explanation is that Jesus came back to life and defeated death, just like the Old Testament predicted, just like He predicted, and just like the Apostles preached! JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD!!

"Believest thou this?"

- A. When Jesus asked Martha this question, He immediately divides people into two categories:
 - 1. Those who believe and have hope of eternal life.
 - 2. Those who do not believe and have no hope.
- B. **Q** = Which group are you in?...
 - 1. Cf. **John 3:16-18** - Jesus said, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*
 - 2. Cf. **John 3:36** - *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

3. Cf. **Romans 10:9-13** - *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

IV. THE INVITATION:

A. THE "GOOD NEWS":

1. **Jesus died on the Cross for your sins and was buried.**

- a. Cf. **Romans 3:23** - *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"*
 - 1) **Q** = What is "sin"?... The word "sin" means *"to miss the mark."*
 - a) God's mark is perfection, and we all fall short of perfection!
 - b. Cf. **Romans 6:23** - *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*
 - 1) Because of our sins, we've earned death. We deserve eternal damnation.
 - 2) BUT, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - a) **KEY:** You can't earn a gift! We don't deserve it, but we can receive God's forgiveness and the free gift of eternal life!
 - c. Cf. **Ephesians 2:8-9** - *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

2. Jesus rose again the third day, and He's offering you eternal life.

- a. Cf. **John 3:3, 13-17** - *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ... And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*

B. **Q** = What do you need to do?...

1. Admit that you're a sinner.

- a. **KEY:** The greatest need that we all have is to have our sins forgiven! We cannot enter into eternity with all of our sin. That's why Jesus died, so that He could pay the penalty for you. He paid your fine so that you can enter into eternity with a clean record.

2. Repent of your sin.

- a. To "repent" means "to turn around." You've been going away from God in rebellion, but you can turn toward Him in submission.
- b. It's changing your mind and doing a U-turn to Jesus!

3. Believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him into your life.

- a. **Illust.** - Faith in Christ is like putting on a parachute if you have to jump from a plane. You don't want to jump into eternity without putting on Jesus Christ. He is your only lifeline!

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

- b. Cf. **John 1:12** - *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"*
- c. **NOTE:** You CANNOT BE NEUTRAL concerning Jesus Christ.
 - 1) Cf. **Luke 11:23** - Jesus said, **"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth."**
 - a) Some will say, "I'm not against Jesus," but if you're not FOR Jesus, you are automatically against Him.
 - 2) **KEY:** You either believe, or you don't believe. You either have Christ, or you don't have Christ.

"LET'S ALL BOW ARE HEADS AND CLOSE OUR EYES."

- 1. **You might not have realized this when you walked in today, but you have A DIVINE APPOINTMENT WITH GOD.**
 - a. He has been calling you.
 - b. He has been preparing your heart for this moment.
 - c. You may have had a friend invite you this morning, BUT IT WAS REALLY THE LORD WHO HAS BROUGHT YOU HERE because He wants you to know Him and to have a relationship with Him.
- 2. **We're not asking you to join our church.**
 - a. You actually can't join our church. We don't have a membership.
 - b. To be in the Church, the Body of Christ, you have to be born into it. You join God's people by being born again.
- 3. **God's not asking you to be religious. He's inviting you into a relationship.**

John 11:25-26 | "The Resurrection and the Life"

- a. Christianity is not living by a set of rules. Christianity, simplified, is asking Jesus to come into your life and have a relationship with Him.
4. **Q** = Is there anybody here who would say, "I want my sins forgiven. I want to receive Jesus into my life. I want to know Him and spend eternity with Him in heaven."?... If that's you, just raise your hand, not so much so I can see it, but so that God can see it.
 - a. Maybe you've been a prodigal son or prodigal daughter, and you've been running away from Him. You know the truth, and you're sick and tired of it, and you want to come home... The Father will run to you with open arms and receive you back! He's been waiting for this day!
5. Pray.
- D. Everybody Jesus called in the Bible, He called PUBLICLY. So, when the band starts singing, if you raised your hand, I'm going to ask you to come down and stand here in the front, and I'm going to lead you in a prayer.
 1. Cf. **Matthew 10:32-33** - Jesus said, "*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*"
 - a. Don't care about what everyone else thinks.
 - b. Don't care about what your friends think.
 - c. Only care about what God thinks. He's inviting you into a relationship with Him forever, and to give you eternal life.

"Dear Lord, I admit that I'm a sinner, and I ask you to forgive me of everything I've done wrong. I believe that you died on the Cross in my place. I believe that You rose from the dead. I turn to You now and receive the gift of eternal life. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit, and help me to follow You until I see You face to face. In Jesus' Name, Amen."