

The Resurrection and the Life

Our theme during February has focused on the Man Who Defeated Death. This really is the greatest news that has ever come into this world. Death is not the end. Because of Jesus, our final destiny is not hell. Whoever believes on Jesus may die physically, but will go on living. For the Christian, death is the gateway to eternal life. It is our hope and it is based on truth. John 14.19: *Because I live, you will live too.* In our lesson today, we will take an in-depth look at the story of John 11 and the resurrection of Lazarus.

I. Understanding the Background

- A. John 11 occurs only days away from the cross. It sheds light on a very important miracle.
 - 1. John 11.1-2 identifies the situation. **Lazarus**, the brother of Mary & Martha was very ill.
 - 2. Word is sent to Jesus, but he remains east of the Jordan.
- B. John 11.7-8 - Jesus decides to return to Judea. Disciples object.
- C. John 11.15 - Jesus states the purpose of the miracle He will work.

II. John 11.17-19: Why Jesus Came to Bethany

- A. He gave Himself to the needs of others.
 - 1. John 11.17-19 - Lazarus had been dead for **four** days. A crowd has gathered.
 - 2. John 11.19b - Many friends and extended family came in to console the family.
- B. What can we learn here?
 - 1. Jesus was in Bethany because of a voluntary act of will - dealing with physical death.
 - 2. Jesus didn't have to bother with mankind, but He died that we might live. See John 10.10b.

III. John 11.20-25a: Don't Limit God's Power

- A. John 11.20-22 - Martha heads out to meet Jesus somewhere outside of Bethany.
 - 1. It seems that she had confidence in Jesus, yet she limited His power.
 - 2. John 11.22 - Struggling - but still holding on to a little hope.
 - 3. John 11.23 - Jesus responds. *Your brother will **rise** again.*
 - 4. John 11.24 - Martha still hung up in doubt.
- B. John 11.25 - Jesus: *I am the resurrection and the life.*
 - 1. **I AM** - the name of God.
 - 2. **Resurrection** and **life** come by Jesus Christ.

IV. John 11.25b-27: Belief in Jesus

- A. John 11.25b - Even though we may die physically, we will live spiritually.
- B. John 11.26 - those who live spiritually will never **die**.
- C. John 11.26b - Here's the human side to our salvation. Will we believe?
- D. John 11.27 - Martha's confession: I am already believing. *You are the **Messiah**, the Son of God, who comes into the world.*

V. John 11.28-37: Moved by Love

- A. John 11.33 - See His humanity. Jesus was **deeply moved**.
 - 1. Mary is weeping. "Loud weeping/wailing."
- B. John 11.34 - Off they go to the tomb. John 11.35 - *Jesus wept.*
- C. John 11.36 - This tells us why Jesus was crying. Jesus **loved** Lazarus.

VI. As We Close...

- A. Just as Jesus purposely came to Bethany that day to raise Lazarus from the dead, so He has come to our world.
- B. He has come to bring you life. Do you believe?