



TEXT SUMMARY

This sermon focuses on Jesus' words to Martha at Lazarus's tomb in John 11:17–27. Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life," grounding our hope in his own resurrection. Because of sin, death is a universal reality, yet in Christ there is both a present spiritual resurrection (new life now) and a future physical resurrection (our bodies raised). This life is temporary; the next life is eternal. Therefore, believers can face death—and all of life's brokenness—with real hope, an eternal purpose, and confidence in being with Christ forever.

INTRODUCTION **(OBSERVATION):**

Read John 11:17–27 together.

1. Setting the scene (John 11:17–22)
 - What details in verses 17–19 underscore how final Lazarus' death appears (e.g., "four days," the crowd of mourners, etc.)?
 - Martha goes out to meet Jesus; Mary stays seated in the house (v. 20). What might this suggest about their different ways of grieving?
 - Martha says, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (v. 21).

- What emotions do you hear in that sentence (faith, disappointment, confusion, accusation, all of the above)?
- Have you ever prayed or thought something similar toward God?

1. Martha's understanding of resurrection (John 11:23–24)
 - Jesus says, "Your brother will rise again." How does Martha interpret that promise in verse 24?
 - What does her answer ("in the resurrection on the last day") tell you about:

- Her knowledge of Scripture?
- The kind of hope she has?
- The limits of her understanding at that moment?

Large empty box for notes, containing horizontal lines for writing.

1. Jesus' claim about himself (John 11:25–27)

- List the key phrases in verses 25–26:

- “I am the resurrection and the life.”
- “Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.”
- “Everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”
 - What is shocking or radical about Jesus saying “I am the resurrection and the life” instead of “I will bring about a resurrection”?
 - In verse 27, how would you summarize Martha’s confession in your own words?
 - How does her confession compare to Peter’s in Matthew 16:16?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

The sermon highlighted three big truths:

1. This life is temporary (death because of sin).
2. The resurrection gives us hope (spiritual and physical).
3. The next life is eternal (forever with Christ).

How do the following Scriptures deepen or clarify those truths?

1. Death and its cause (Genesis 2:16–17; Romans 5:12)
 - What did God warn Adam and Eve about in Genesis 2:16–17?
 - According to Romans 5:12, how did sin and death spread to all people?
 - How do these verses help explain why death is a universal reality?
2. Present spiritual resurrection (Ephesians 2:1–6; Romans 8:10)
Read Ephesians 2:1–6.
 - How does Paul describe our condition before Christ (vv. 1–3)?
 - What has God done for us “even when we were dead in our trespasses” (vv. 4–6)?
 - In what sense have believers already been “raised” and “seated...with him”?
3. Read Romans 8:10.
 - How can the body be “dead because of sin” while “the Spirit is life because of righteousness”?
 - How does this relate to Jesus’ words, “everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die”?
4. Future physical resurrection and eternal life (2 Corinthians 5:1–2, 6–8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)
Read 2 Corinthians 5:1–2, 6–8.
 - What images does Paul use for our present body (“tent”) and our future existence (“building from God,” “heavenly dwelling”)?
 - What does it mean to be “away from the body” and “at home with the Lord”?
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.
 - Why does Paul say believers grieve differently from “others who have no hope”?
 - What specific sequence of events does Paul describe when Christ returns (vv. 16–17)?
 - How do these verses connect to Jesus’ promise, “Though he die, yet shall he live”?

- If your answer is “yes,” how might you live more consistently with that belief?
- If your answer is “I’m not sure,” what would be a next honest step for you (ask questions, talk to someone, pray for faith, reread the Gospel of John)?

1. Hope for a hopeless world

- The sermon noted that many around us are overwhelmed by sickness, death, and hardship and have lost hope.
- Can you identify one person in your life right now who needs resurrection hope?
- What is one specific way you could encourage that person this week with the truth that “everyone who lives and believes in [Christ] shall never die”?

Consider closing by reading John 11:25–26 aloud together, then praying:

- Thanking God for Christ’s death and resurrection.
- Asking for deeper faith in his promises.
- Asking for courage to live—and to die—in light of the resurrection.