

I am Jesus

I am the Resurrection and the Life

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, but by me."

"I am the bread of life. If you eat of me, you will never hunger again."

"I am the gate", or "I am the door by which you enter."

Today, we will look at the "I am" statement from **John 11:25** when Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die."*

What exactly is a resurrection?

Resuscitated folks are dead for a short period of time.

Reanimated folks are dead for a longer period of time.

With resuscitated or reanimated, the individuals will again die.

"Now, a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister, Martha." John 11:1

"So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

"This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." John 11:4

This is the very thing that you would never ever want to happen.

"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

John 11:11

Now, he wasn't saying Lazarus was tired and taking a nap.
He is using a metaphor or what we call a figure speech.

His saying, *"He's dead and we need to go raise him from the dead."*

Let's turn our attention to three different characters in this story.

- 1) The disciple Thomas.
- 2) Mary, one of the sisters.
- 3) The other sister, Martha.

We will see three different ways they were dying on the inside.

Perhaps, at this point in your life, some of you can relate to what they were going through, or maybe it may be at another time in your life.

1) Thomas was dead in his _____.

*"Then Thomas, also known as Didymus. So, he said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go that we may die with him." **John 11:16***

He is thinking, *"This is never going to turn out good at all."*

How many of you would be honest enough to say that you've had spiritual doubts at some point in your lives?

There's something on the inside that's a little dead in your doubts.

2) Mary was dead in her _____.

You're dead in your discouragement.
You just don't see anything good happening.
You just cannot seem to get a break.

Mary was very discouraged; we see this in verse 20.

"When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Jesus."

What did Mary do?

She just stayed at home.

I can't change anything.

I'm always going to feel alone.

I'm always going to be depressed.

I'm always going to be stuck in this dead-end job.

I'm never going to have the marriage that I thought I would have.

I'm just kind of stuck.

Some of you, that may be where you are right now.

You're not going to show it. You put on your good clothes, you come to church. Some of you even do the Christian language.

"How you doing?" "Hey, praise the Lord, Halleluiah. Fine, thank you, Jesus." "Glory to God!"

You're smiling on the outside. On the inside, you're really discouraged.

3) **Martha was dead in the _____.**

God took too long. Jesus should have come back earlier and he didn't.

Verse 17 *"On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for 4 days."*

Why does this matter?

In the time when Martha was living, there was a commonly held belief that a spirit would stick around for three days after someone died. This isn't a biblical belief. It's not a Christian belief.

It was just kind of a folklore that if someone died, their spirit would be like kind of close just in case they came back, and their spirit could get back into the body.

At four days, the spirit left.

He was dead. He was dead and then some.

So dead was he, that later in the story, Martha tried to describe the smell of how his body would smell. The King James Version -- "*He stinketh.*"

She goes on in verse 21, "*Lord, If you had been here, my brother, he wouldn't have died.*" She is scold Him. You took too long!

Why didn't you do this when you could have done something about it?"
Some of you right now, you can relate.

You feel dead in your delay.

You're waiting on an answer to a prayer.

Maybe you're a Christian man or woman who wants to be married.

Maybe you're a married couple, they're praying for a baby.

Maybe you're praying for a loved one to experience the goodness of God.

Maybe you're are praying and believing that God could actually heal someone.

You believe that we serve a God that says all things are possible, yet you pray and you pray and God's just not doing it.

You feel dead in the delay. If that's you today, I hope that this message will speak to you.

Never ever forget that God's delays are not God's denials.

Just because God hasn't done something yet doesn't mean that God is not still in charge. He has a plan that He may be glorified in the future through the very thing going on today that you would never ever would want.

Verse 22, *"But I know that even now, God will give you whatever you ask."*

- Even though we're dead in our delay
- Even though we're dead in our discouragement
- Even though we're dead in our doubts

"Even now, God will give you whatever you ask."

Some of you need to have an "even now" moment with God.

That's what Jesus did in verse 23. He told Martha, *"Your brother will rise again."* Martha answered, *"I know he'll rise again in the resurrection at the last days."*

She was confused; she was thinking a different resurrection.

And Jesus said in 25, he said, *"I am the resurrection and the life."*

He didn't say, "I'm able to resurrect," but *"I am the resurrection."*

"The one who believes in me will live even though they die. Whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life."*

It's not just what he does; it's who he is.

The resurrection is not an event. It is a person.

It's not just what he does, it's who he is.

Dead things don't stay dead when the resurrection walks into the room. The resurrection, Jesus, looks at the tomb where Lazarus is stinketh, and he said to the disciples, "*Take the stone away.*"

And when they did, in **verse 43**, Jesus called out in a loud voice. "*Lazarus, come out.*" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to him, "*Take off the grave clothes and let him go.*"

Jesus is dead in the tomb; there's a stone blocking it.
Lazarus is dead in a tomb; there's a stone blocking it.
When Jesus goes to Lazarus, he tells the disciples, "Roll the stone away."
When Jesus is in the tomb, the women walk up in the morning like, "ah, oh. Who's going to roll the stone away?"

Some of you, you feel dead on the inside.

- You've lost faith.
- You've lost hope.
- You're dead in the delay.
- You're discouraged.
- You've got doubts.

You feel trapped in a tomb, and you feel like you don't have the strength to roll the stone away.

I want you to remember that Christ has rolled the stone away.
The same voice that called Lazarus to come out is telling you to "Come out, come out."

Your sins can be forgiven, not because you're good but because he's good.

You can be set free, not because you're strong but because he's strong.

You can feel his presence not because you deserve it, but because he is that good.

The resurrection is not what he does; it's who he is.

Why does it matter? Because God, in his love and mercy, did something for us we were incapable of doing for ourselves.

He became one of us.

God in the flesh, born of a virgin.

Why does the whole virgin thing matter?

Because Jesus didn't inherit the fleshly nature from an earthly father but inherited the divine nature from his Heavenly Father.

Therefore, he could be the lamb without blemish or spot or wrinkle.

Therefore, he could be the perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins on the cross when he brutally suffered at the hands of the creation.

He looked up to heaven and said, "*Father, I did what you sent me to do. It is finished. Into your hands I commit my spirit.*"

The earth went dark and shook, and everyone who had hoped maybe he was the Messiah fell into despair and darkness.

They didn't realize it was Friday, but Sunday was coming.

God would be glorified through the death, as Jesus was raised.

Some of you right now, I'm telling you, you're stuck.

With one touch from God, you can turn the corner.

I'm not telling you that everything will be perfect.

- Everybody is healed.
- Everybody lives forever.
- Your hair never falls out.
- Your body is perfect.
- You win the lottery.

What I'm telling you is that God is always glorified by what happens in your life because he is that good.

Jesus says, "*I am the resurrection and the life.*"

Some of you, you're dead in your sins. Because of what he did, and not because we could ever earn it or deserve it, our sins can be forgiven. You can be made brand new.

It's called the gospel. It is the good news that God did something that we couldn't do for ourselves because he is that good.

The tomb is empty. He is risen. The resurrection changes everything.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will never die."