

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

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**Thesis:** This life brings hardship and crisis, but Jesus gives comfort, and a better life. Once you’ve discovered that Jesus is the Resurrection and Life, you can know real life in Christ. You can experience the satisfying life you yearn for...

**Subject:** Jesus is The Resurrection and Life

**Object:** Experience real life in Christ

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” [Jn. 11:25-26]

### 1. This life Brings Crisis [1-16]: the backstory of Lazarus’ condition

Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, was very sick, so ill that a messenger traveled twenty miles to Jesus for help. They believed Jesus could help.

**Difficulties in this life can cause us to seek Jesus’ help.**

How encouraged the family would be to hear Jesus’ assurance that Lazarus’ illness would not result in death [4]. Their faith would be tested, especially as the days passed, and events unfolded. Jesus was

only twenty miles away and could have easily arrived within a day, and yet He waited two days before leaving [6-7]. We could easily imagine the frustration as Jesus appears to perhaps unreasonably delay His arrival.

Jesus refers to Lazarus condition as sleep, as a metaphor for his death, because from Jesus' perspective Lazarus will live, but Jesus makes it clear that Lazarus had died [11-14].

Jesus delayed so that the events would help the disciples to better appreciate who He is, His power and grace, and thus increase their faith in Him [15].

So often, when our circumstances are overwhelming, we want God to make things better *now*. If you ever question God's love or don't understand why you are experiencing hardship, remember what you should know: that God is good and He loves you! Jesus proved that at the cross. Jesus loves Lazarus, His delay was not because of indifference or a lack of compassion for his suffering.

## 2. Jesus gives comfort [17-27]

When Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days, he had begun to decompose and there was no apparent hope [17]. The mourners had gathered to comfort Marth and Mary. Jews will mourn for thirty days and the first week is most solemn (*shivah*). When Jesus arrived, Martha came to meet Him, and she says, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask" [20-22]. Her tone likely reflected

disappointment rather than reproach. She believed Jesus could have healed, but suspects His power is limited.

**Jesus' words (and works) are intended to comfort us in this difficult life.**

Jesus then utters the words that we read earlier, that He is the resurrection and life. That He has all authority over life and death. For a follower of Jesus, death is merely a gateway to a better life with God unhindered by the difficulties of this life. Jesus challenges her faith (and ours), “Do you believe this?” [25-26].

Martha affirms her belief that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God who is come into this world [27]. She is confident who Jesus is and that He is good, and has sought to yield her life to Him. Yet, the circumstances regarding Lazarus' death seem hopeless and beyond Jesus' ability.

Jesus' words, and the promises of the Bible generally, provide comfort in the sense of strength, encouragement, hope, and a sense of well-being. They provide comfort only to the extent we: 1. know the promises, 2. truly believe them, and 3. confidently trust God's goodness and ability. The evidence of Jesus' resurrection is beyond a reasonable doubt, and therefore we can *know* that Jesus truly has all authority over life and death. This is the ultimate issue facing humanity. Thus, if Jesus can give life, then we can be comforted by Him in all the other issues we face.

Like the Apostle Paul, we want to have peace in the midst of the storms of life and be able to declare, “For I believe God that it will be just as it was told me” [Ac. 27:25]. Nevertheless, we relate to the man with a demon possessed son who said, “Lord I believe help my unbelief!” [Mk. 9:24].

### 3. Jesus gives a better life [28-44]

#### The hopeless life [28-39]

Jesus called for Mary, Martha’s sister [28], and she came quickly to Jesus. She said the same thing that Martha said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died” [32, 21]. Mary starts to cry and then Jesus wept, and groaned [33-38]. Why was Jesus so troubled?

I don’t believe Jesus wept because of Lazarus’ death, since Jesus would momentarily reverse Lazarus’ condition. I believe that Jesus was grieved, because Mary had lost hope. Mary may be one of the best examples in the gospels of a true worshiper of Jesus [Cf. Jn. 11-12, Luke 10:38-42], and even Mary did not appreciate who Jesus really is and what He can do. There was a Jewish tradition at the time that the soul stayed near the body of the deceased for three days, but since it was the fourth day the situation was seemingly hopeless. Lazarus corpse was decomposing [39].

How do I cause Jesus to groan and weep at my lack of belief?

## The hope-full life (real life in Christ) [39-45]

Jesus had the mourners take away the stone at the mouth of the cave that was used as a cemetery.

Then He reminded Martha that if she would believe she would know the glory of God. Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus come forth! And Lazarus came out of the grave, restored to life, but with his body still wrapped in linen for burial. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”

Many of those who witnessed these events, as well as Lazarus, believed in Jesus, discovered their Messiah, and their lives would be changed forever. Their faith in Jesus would not only provide forgiveness of sin, but they would experience spiritual life with God. This is real life!

### How can you experience real life?

**1. Take away the stone: remove the obstacles to coming to Jesus.** Some of the obstacles include: fear, unbelief, misunderstanding the nature of God and the gospel, bad experiences with Christians or church, fear of giving up something, fear of what others would think, and thinking that you don't need Jesus.

**2. Believe: Make a commitment to follow Jesus.**

**3. Respond to His call: God desires all of us to come to faith and receive true life with Christ [Jn. 3:16].** And He calls each of us by name, just like He called Lazarus.

**4. Help others who are bound to come to Jesus:** Just as Jesus instructed people to help remove the things that bound Lazarus, He has called us to help other to know and grow in Christ.

### Study Guide Qs

*Q1. What are some difficulties that you've experienced recently that caused you to seek Jesus' help?*

*Q2. What words and works of Jesus have been a source of comfort in your difficulties?*

*Q3. How does it make you feel that Jesus has all authority over life and death?*

*Q4. Review the section, "How to experience real life" above. How would you like to apply this lesson to your life?*

### Digging Deeper

1. 1 Cor. 15:1-58 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible regarding the resurrection.

Therein, Paul makes clear that the truth of the resurrection has moral implications. What did you learn from studying the chapter, and how would you like to apply the lessons to your life?

2. Three times in the Bible we read that Jesus wept [Jn. 19:41, Mt. 27:38, Jn. 11:35]. What was going on in each instance? What might they have in common? What did you discover about what grieves Jesus, and how can you apply it to your life?