

"I Am The Resurrection"

John 11:21-27

Here is one of the most profound titles of Christ—*"I am the resurrection, and the life."* The context of Christ's statement—Jesus was speaking in the very atmosphere of death, decay, and despair. Lazarus had been dead four days. His family and friends were sorrowing. Yet in this environment of death Jesus boldly declares, *"I am the resurrection, and the life."*

HUMOR: Three guys were discussing what they would like people to say at their funeral.

The first guy said, "I'd like people at my funeral to say, 'He was a dedicated Christian and loved Jesus.'"

The second guy said, "I'd want people to say, 'He was a good father and a good husband.'"

Finally, the third guy said, "What I'd like people to say at my funeral is, 'Hey, look! He's moving! He's alive!!!'"

That is what witnesses said about Jesus after He died, "He's moving and up walking around! He's alive!"

If you know Jesus as your Savior, that will also be true of you after you die! You'll actually be alive and walking around on streets of gold!

Is there anybody here that wants to live forever? If you want eternal life, you gotta get it from Jesus! *"This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and **this life is in his Son**"* (1 John 5:11).

I. The PERSON of Christ (v. 25).

➡ *"I am the resurrection and the life."* Jesus **IS** *"the resurrection."*

Apart from Him there is no resurrection! No one else could ever say that! All other religious leaders are still rotting in the grave! Apart from Jesus Christ, there is only death and despair (1 Cor. 15:19).

➡ You may be cultured, respected in the community, and a member of a church—but if you are not joined to the Lord Jesus, you are in a "walking sepulcher"—*"dead in trespasses and sins"* (Eph. 2:1).

A. The resurrection was not just a fact of prophecy or doctrine, but **embodied in a PERSON.**

1. When you're sick, you want a doctor, not a medical book.
2. When you're being sued, you want a lawyer, not a law book.
3. When you face death, you want a living Savior, not a theology book.

➡ Jesus becomes whatever we need.

- When you need nourishment—*"I am the bread of life."*
- When you are in the dark—*"I am the light of the world."*
- When you need a way out—*"I am the door."*
- When you need someone to care and lead you, *"I am the good shepherd."*
- When you are dealing with death—*"I am the resurrection."*
- When you want to go to heaven—*"I am the way, the truth, and the life."*

B. Martha did not need bread at the moment... She didn't need light. She needed a resurrection!

➡ Life begins when you receive Christ as your Savior. Up to that point, you are spiritually dead (v. 25). You don't need religion... you need a resurrection.

1. Resurrection would raise up Lazarus.
2. Life would keep him up! Jesus not only saves, He keeps us saved.

C. Jesus statement moved the doctrine of the resurrection out of the future into the present. When you believe on Christ, you don't have to wait to *"the last day."* You can be *"come up from the dead"* today!

1. Martha was living in the past (v. 21). Jesus is NOT the "I was..." He is the *"I AM..."* He is the God of the RIGHT NOW—the EVER PRESENT HELP in time of need.
2. Martha was focused on the future (v. 24), dwelling in the past (v. 21)... and missing the God of the present.

II. The PITY of Christ (vs. 27-35).

➡ Christ's humanness. He even asked where the grave was (v. 34).

A. He "*groaned*" (v. 33). He sympathized with their sorrow and grief.

1. Jesus is a Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.

2. Mt. 8:17—"...*himself TOOK our infirmities, and BARE our sicknesses.*" He FELT the burden of their pain **before** He removed it.

B. He "*wept*" (v. 35). He had personal concern and compassion. Weep with them that weep.

➡ He was not weeping for Lazarus (v. 36). He was weeping for those Lazarus left behind.

C. He "*groaned*" **and** "*wept*" KNOWING He would raise Lazarus! He knew the whole ordeal would be OK in just a few minutes! **Yet**, He wept knowing this. Why? Because He was being sympathetic with Mary and Martha's need. He was touched with the feelings of their infirmity!

III. The PRAYER of Christ (vs. 41-42).

➡ Notice the phrase, "*But for the people...*" (v. 41). Are you ministry conscious or are you people conscious?

A. He prayed when it seemed they could not. They were not praying—They were accusing and agonizing (vs. 21, 32).

B. He prays when it appeared it is too late to pray (v. 39). "Lord, don't stir up a stink now!"

C. He prays what needs to be prayed. His knows what to pray for better than we do. His prayers are always accurate.

➡ I'm not leaning on my frail pathetic petitions—I'm trusting my Great High Priest's intercessions.

IV. The POWER of Christ (vs. 38-44).

➡ A message of HOPE—God is more powerful than what held Lazarus in the grave! God is still in the business of raising dead hopes and dreams.

- A. Power to overcome DEATH. Lazarus was dead FOUR DAYS. He was “sure ‘nuff” dead—He was graveyard dead.
- The raising of Lazarus pictures the conversion of a lost soul.
 - The raising of Lazarus pictures the resurrection of a dead saint at the rapture.
- ➡ Note the “*two day*” delay (v. 6)—One day with the Lord is as a thousand years (2 Pet. 3:8). Jesus has been in heaven for the equivalent of almost two days awaiting while people on earth have died. Jesus could return any day now and the dead in Christ shall rise!
- B. Power to overcome DECAY. He didn’t listen to Martha’s advice.
1. Stink of decay—**Sin stinks!** When the Bible says that the unsaved are DEAD in trespasses and sins, we need to realize that sin stinks in the nostrils of a thrice holy God!
 2. Jesus raised Lazarus without a stink!
- C. Power to overcome DETACHMENT (detachment of the soul/spirit from the body at death).
1. While Lazarus lay dead in the grave, the real Lazarus was gone. He was in paradise.
 2. Jesus called back the soul/spirit from beyond the grave and reunited them with the body. Jesus did not raise a “spook.” Lazarus was raised IN TACT!
- ➡ The word “*resurrection*” comes from two Greek words which mean “to cause to stand up.” Jesus makes the “dead” stand up again.
- Jesus can restore you to ministry IN TACT!
 - Jesus can reunite your son or daughter IN TACT!
 - Jesus can revive your dead marriage IN TACT! [ILLUS. of Glenn and Tina Shaw at Brother Hughes’ church in East Mesa.]

SUMMATION: As of 2014, 250 people are banking on the idea that modern science will someday find or engineer a fountain of youth. Those

250 people, all deceased, are “patients” of the Alcor Life Extension Institute in Scottsdale, Arizona, where their bodies – or merely their heads! – have been frozen in liquid nitrogen at minus 320 degrees Fahrenheit awaiting the day when medical science discovers a way to make death and aging a thing of the past.

Some of these “patients” paid \$120,000 to have their entire body frozen. While others paid \$50,000 to have only their head frozen, hoping that molecular technology will one day be able to grow a whole new body from their head or its cells.

It sounds like science fiction, but it’s called cryonics.

Stephen Bridge, president of Alcor, admits, “We don’t even really know if it will work.”

Nevertheless Thomas Donaldson, a fifty-year-old member of Alcor has brushed aside the naysayers and explained why he’s willing to give cryonics a try: “For some strange reason, I like being alive... I don’t want to die. Okay, guys?”

For those, like Donaldson, who like being alive, God has good news. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead with an eternal, resurrection body. He has conquered death. All those who believe in Jesus will someday also be raised from the dead with an eternal resurrection body. Jesus is “*the resurrection and the life*” (John 11:25-26).