

Jesus Is God

I Am The Resurrection And The Life, part 5

INTRODUCTION:

There's probably nothing Jesus could have done to better demonstrate His divine power and authority than to bring someone back from the dead. Death, even for the most committed Christian, looms as an ominous and foreboding event that all of us are headed for. Death touches us all in profound ways.

It is within a fascinating story, filled with great teaching, from the pages of John chapter 11 that we see Jesus make the 5th declaration that He is God.

Now, before we get really into the details of the story and Jesus' declaration about Himself, I think it would be good for us to make sure we understand one thing that is found at the opening of this story. It is found in John 11:1-5, with a specific emphasis on verse 4:

1 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

3 So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

4 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. [New American Standard Bible: 1995 update. (1995). (Jn 11:1-5). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.]

Remember, when ever you read this story on your own, or during this message today, remember these words of Jesus—because it puts the events that are recorded into God's perspective. Jesus will delay His going to Bethany for the specific purpose of allowing Lazarus to die—so that God's glory would be demonstrated through the Son of God. God had a divine purpose in Lazarus' death.

{read John 11:23-27}

#1 - Martha's Understanding Of A Resurrection, John 11:24

Martha, along with many Jews in that day, believed that there would be a resurrection in the final day. We too, believe that there will be a resurrection of the just and of the unjust. The just are raised to live eternally with God—and the unjust will be raised to spend an eternity without God in eternal anguish.

What escapes Martha's understanding is that Jesus was referring to a more immediate and individual resurrection. Martha's understanding, while quite correct, was based upon a doctrinal teaching. Jesus would step in and essentially say, "Martha, I Am the Resurrection. I Am the Life. Resurrection and life come from My authority, from My Word."

#2 - The Claim, John 11:25

Once again, Jesus says, "I Am."

As you might remember from last week's message, The Jews were told by God through Moses in Exodus 3:13-15, that God's eternal name as their Creator and Sovereign God is, in the Hebrew, YHWH, which means "I Am Who I Am" or, "I Am The One Who Is." That same name of God gets rendered in the ancient Greek language, which the New Testament is written, as "Ego Eimi." The meaning is the same. Jesus was claiming to be God.

Exodus 3:13–15 (NASB95)

13 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

15 God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

In this passage, we too learn the eternal name of the Creator and Sovereign God. In Hebrew, it is YHWH. It means, "I Am Who I Am" or, "I Am the One Who Is." From that moment until today, God is supremely identified as the Great I Am.

#3 - The Illustration: Jesus Is The Resurrection And The Life, John 11:25

Life is short! Regardless of how old a loved one might be as they approach death's door, we still want more life. Life beyond death is in the power of Jesus, because Jesus is God.

There is some teaching Jesus gives here for those who want life beyond the grave:

Believing in Him means you will live *after* you die physically, vs. 25

Believing in Him means that you will live spiritually and not suffer spiritual death, vs. 26

#4 - Martha's Confession, vs. 27

Martha's confession is no longer about her belief in a resurrection, but that Jesus is the resurrection. Here, she uses three names to ascribe the fullness of who Jesus truly is:

- Martha confesses that Jesus is Lord.
- Martha confesses that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah).
- Martha confesses that Jesus is the Son of God.

Not to get too detailed in the original Greek language here, but the way Martha makes her confession renders this way: ***indicating a fixed and settled faith. "I have believed and I will continue to believe!"*** [Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 1, p. 336). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.]