

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

John 11:21-26 Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:21 If Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died.

Martha understood Jesus as a healer.

- We have gone through 6 "I Am" statements to get to know Jesus better
- It is tempting to know Him as our Savior who forgives us and gets us into heaven, but then stop there.
- Martha knew Him as a teacher, a friend, and as a healer. But she still did not truly know Jesus fully.

Paul – who wrote 2/3 of the New Testament says he wants to know Christ.

- **Philippians 3:8-11** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.
- **For Paul, knowing Christ was equated to understanding the resurrection.**

John 11:23-24 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

- Martha understands the concept of heaven. The resurrection meaning we will one day die, then rise again and go to heaven. That's what she's talking about here. And that is as far as her understanding goes.
- Most believers today stop here in their understanding of the resurrection. As believers we got saved, and one day we will be in heaven with Jesus after we die.

But Jesus takes it further

- **John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
- Since Jesus corrects Martha's last statement, we know He is referring to something else.
- Jesus not only gives us a guarantee of a future resurrection – He is our resurrection now.
- Jesus is saying that the resurrection is not an event. It is a person. It is Jesus.

Last week we talked about Jesus being the bread of Life. His life is taken in us, and His life nourishes our spirit, gives us strength, gives us healing, and is our life.

So if His life is in us, and He is the resurrection, what does that mean for us?

To understand resurrection, we must understand death.

- Most people define death as ceasing to live. Which most mean ceasing to exist.
- Some may say death is the end of life.
- What does the Bible say of death?

Death

- **Genesis 3:3** but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "
 - After eating the fruit, did they die?

- **Ephesians 2:4-5** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
 - Before we were saved, were we dead?
- **Matthew 25:46** And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
 - According to Jesus, whether believer or unbeliever our future is forever.
 - Does Jesus not know what death is?
- **Death is not ceasing to exist or end of life. Death is separation.**
 - Physical death = separation from the physical
 - Spiritual death = separation from God
- Jesus speaks of both deaths in Revelation
 - **Revelation 20:6** Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.
 - **Revelation 21:8** But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
 - **Revelation 20:14-15** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Let's go back to Jesus' statement to Martha

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

- What a weird statement – He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Jesus is the resurrection. When we take His life into ours, we also experience resurrection. But to be resurrected, we must have died.

That is exactly what Jesus is saying in this passage. He is laying out what happens at our salvation.

1. We believe in Him
2. We die
3. We are resurrected (we live)
4. We live by faith in Him
5. We have eternal life

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Resurrection – already happened. We were made alive together with Christ.

Life – Eternal life. Is here and will be forever.

- **Colossians 2:11-14** In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
- We were dead (separated from God because of sin)
- He made us alive together with Him (resurrected and His life is in us)
- Having forgiven us (made us righteous)

We asked earlier if Adam and Eve dies when they ate the fruit. When you got saved, did you die?

This only makes sense when we realize that we are spirit beings. We are not just the physical that you see.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of the resurrection we live and are joined with Christ.

Because of His life, we have eternal life and will never be separated from Him.

This leads to the last thing Jesus said to Martha:

John 11:26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Do you believe this? Do you believe that:

1. You are a spirit made in the image of God (**John 4:24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.)
2. When you believe in Christ your old nature died.
3. You were resurrected to new life in Christ
4. You are joined with Christ
5. You will live forever

Listen to this passage with those things in mind:

Romans 6:4-11 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.