

John 11:1-44—I Am the Resurrection and the Life

- **Intro:**
 - So what is the deal with life? Is it life now, die and be forgotten? Do you just live and die and that's it?
 - Is there life after death? Is there more going on here?
 - You are more than that—you will live forever!
 - You will live forever as more than a disembodied spirit...you will live forever in BODILY FORM!
 - **Apostle's Creed**—"I believe in the resurrection and the life everlasting. Amen"
 - **Jesus MAKES SENSE of and REDEEMS our past**—Martha saying, "if you had been here..."
 - We all have things in our past...abuse, neglect, lose, pain, etc that are hard to reconcile with the love and presence of God.
 - Remember—in this story, there is no awareness of how the story ends...it's just pain, wailing, loss, letdown!
- **Sometimes Enduring Trial and Suffering is the Pathway to Ultimate Joy and Glory in Jesus (11:4-6)**
 - John 11:4—It was better for Lazarus to die and his sisters to grieve in light of God's glory in their lives than to spare Lazarus death and the sisters' grief!
 - Our worldview must have space for God allowing trials and suffering to happen as a means of deepening our joy in him and him maximizing his glory in our lives!
- **In the gospel, Jesus pulls the future hope of eternity in the present (v.21-27)**
 - John 11:21-24—Martha locates her hope in the fact that Lazarus certainly would rise in the LAST DAY. Jesus' response was that there was resurrection life NOW in HIM to be had NOW!
 - Her hope is WAY OUT IN THE FUTURE and Jesus' response to her is pulling her hope into her present reality!
 - **3 Realities from Jesus:**
 - Martha believed the resurrection was an EVENT...Jesus showed it is a PERSON!
 - Martha thought eternal life was an ABSTRACT IDEA...Jesus showed it is a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP.
 - Martha thought victory over death was only FUTURE EXPECTATION...Jesus showed her it is a PRESENT REALITY!
 - Jesus IS the life...not he will be...not he will offer it one day...he is THE LIFE now!
 - Jesus is LIFE right into your PRESENT! Jesus is LIFE right into your present death and darkness and devastation!
 - Jesus is Resurrection—His Kingdom WILL COME in full consummated glory
 - Jesus is Life—His Kingdom is coming and breaking through into the here and now!
 - This is what God has for us in Christ RIGHT NOW in the gospel!
- **The Glory of Resurrection Emerges from the Backdrop of Brokenness (v.28-37)**
 - John 11:32—Mary just repeats the discontented sorrow of her sister. If you had just been here...this didn't have to happen...I didn't have to be feeling this way...my brother didn't have to be dead!
 - Jesus MOURNED!—the point is not just that Jesus cried. The point is that Jesus ENTERED into the pain of these people! This is DEEP EMOTIONAL PAIN that is being expressed—groaning, pain, etc. Jesus weeping in this moment is EMPATHY!

- Empathy to the Pain
- Empathy to LOSTNESS—Jesus also feels the pain of lostness amidst all these unbelieving Jews—in the midst of the stench of death Jesus knows that most of these people are dying apart from faith!
- Jesus WEPT—literally like a sudden outburst. Jesus couldn't keep it in any longer!
- Jesus' Resurrection Affirms Him as Our Only Source of Life and Hope (v.40-44)
 - Ultimately, we are not celebrating the resurrection of Lazarus! He would die again! All the hope, all the promises, all the future joy attached to this story is tied up in the resurrection of Jesus! Because he rose, death is defeated. Hell is conquered. Eternal joy is certain!
 - If your sinful past was too dirty, Jesus would still be dead! If your past pain was too dark, Jesus would still be dead...but the TOMB IS EMPTY and that means that our present lives can be TRANSFORMED completely as we see Jesus and are made more and more like him!
 - Like Martha...you may just think that what is in the grave is what it is! You may be like her not wanting Jesus to move the stone. But what Jesus pronounces here is that HE IS RESURRECTION LIFE. Your shame, your guilt, your sin, your past, your struggles...all of them are underneath the feet of this resurrected King!
 - Jesus being the resurrection and the life means that WE DON'T HAVE RESURRECTION AND LIFE without him. You and I ARE NOT just one step away from having it all figured out and taken care of! Our future is NOT bright, hope-filled or certain apart from him!