



April 13, 2025

I Am “The Resurrection and the Life”

John 11:1-44 (1-7, 20-26 below)

A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. ²This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord’s feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. ³So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, “Lord, your dear friend is very sick.” ⁴But when Jesus heard about it he said, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.” ⁵So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, ⁶he stayed where he was for the next two days. ⁷Finally, he said to his disciples, “Let’s go back to Judea.”

²⁰When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.” ²³Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴“Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.” ²⁵Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

Sermon Summary:

The "I Am" statements are a series of declarations made by Jesus in the Gospel of John which underscore His divine identity and mission. Each of these statements serves not only as a reflection of His nature but also as a way of revealing how He fulfills the spiritual needs of humanity. Jesus wasn't just exercising positive self-talk when He made these bold statements. He was letting the first-century Jews, familiar with God's definition of Himself, know that He truly was God incarnate, the Messiah they were waiting for.

It's important to consider that He knew who He was, and He wanted us to clearly know, too. He can't be minimized to merely our "ticket to heaven" but must be seen as our daily sustenance, our direction, our protector, our sacrificial Savior, our victory over death, our access to the Father and eternal life.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. What's something in your life that took longer than you expected—but ended up being worth the wait?
2. Share about a time when someone showed up for you at just the right time.
3. What's something that recently made you feel really seen or cared for?
4. What's one thing that gives you hope when life feels heavy or uncertain?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. Who are the main characters in this story, and what do we learn about their relationships with Jesus?
2. Why do you think Jesus delayed going to Bethany after hearing that Lazarus was sick (vv. 5–6)?
3. How do the disciples respond to the idea of returning to Judea, and what does that tell you about their mindset?
4. In verses 25–26, Jesus declares, “I am the resurrection and the life.” What does that mean, and why is it significant?



5. How does Martha's response to Jesus (vv. 21–27) show both faith and limitation in her understanding?
6. What does the raising of Lazarus reveal about Jesus' authority over death?
7. Why do you think Jesus wept, even though He knew He was about to raise Lazarus?

Application Questions:

1. Have you ever felt like Jesus delayed in answering your prayer? How does this story speak to those moments?
2. How can Jesus' words "I am the resurrection and the life" bring hope to your life today?
3. What does this story teach you about waiting on God's timing?
4. How might God be working in your own personal situation even though you can't see what he is doing?
5. Where do you need to trust Jesus to bring "resurrection" in your own life—whether in relationships, circumstances, or your own?