

Greetings, fellow disciples. In **Jn. 11:25** Jesus claims, **“I AM the Resurrection and the Life” (Jn. 11:25)**! Jesus makes this statement just moments before He raises a dead man from the dead! This claim was made after He had already claimed to be the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door of the Sheep Pen, and the Good Shepherd. Only 2 more claims to make (**14:6, 15:1**). That Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life means “Life can be faced with joyous anticipation instead of anxious fear, because Jesus has conquered death.” As someone outlined **11:17-44**: “In the first movement, Martha’s faith is challenged (:17-27); in the second, Mary’s grief is shared (:28-37); while in the third, Lazarus’ life is restored (:38-44).” But focus on Jesus!

Read Jn. 11:17-27. :17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. The term tomb means a stone gravesite, either a cave or rock area, which would be carved out, the floor inside leveled. Shelves were cut out or constructed inside the area in order to bury family members. A huge stone then would be rolled in front of the opening to prevent wild animals or grave robbers from entering. The Jews did not embalm and the climate was warm so death and burial would have taken place on the same day. The body of Lazarus had already started to decompose after 4 days (:39).

:18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off. This Bethany was more than 20 miles from Perea, a hard day’s journey. **:19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.** Martha, the one who loved action. Mary, the one who loved quietly listening. “From the human perspective, the mourners were there to comfort the sisters in their loss, but from God’s perspective, they were there to witness a stunning miracle.” Many mourners would remain with the family for an entire week. A procession composed of relatives, friends, and often hired mourners would have accompanied the body of Lazarus to the grave. Mourning usually included loud wailing & beating of the breast. Martha and Mary were hurting.

:20 Martha therefore when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. :21 Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Her words were a testimony of her trust in Jesus’ healing power. She had faith that He could have saved her brother if Jesus had just come while Lazarus still lived. How often those words must have come to the lips of the 2 sisters since their brother’s death: “Oh, if only Jesus had been here!” Humanly speaking, the sisters’ message had arrived too late for Jesus to have returned to Bethany in time to heal Lazarus. Could they be thinking of **4:46-54**, of how over a distance Jesus had healed the dying son? Remember **11:4,15 (read)**.

:22 Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” “In the heart of Martha, the darkness of grief and the light of hope were engaged in deadly combat. Whenever she riveted her attention on Jesus, His power, wisdom, and love, she expected great things [see especially **:22** and **:27**]. Whenever she looked away from Jesus and dwelt on the power of death, she became pessimistic [see especially **:24** and **:39**]. That confidence, however, evidently did not extend to Jesus’ ability to resurrect her brother, as her later

hesitation when the tomb was opened makes clear (:39).” Martha was looking for Jesus’ comfort, for the peace that only God can give to a person who is burdened and saddened, torn with grief. Martha’s faith was placed right where ours often is, in what she thought should have happened, not in who Jesus is!!

: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 on the last day. I agree with You that he’ll rise again.” In Martha’s mind, Jesus was referring to the resurrection at the end of history. Individual resurrection is at least implied in **Job 19:25-27, Ps. 16:10, Is. 26:19, Ezek. 37:1-14, Hos. 6:2, Dan. 12:2.**

:25-27 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies. This is the 5th of the 7 ‘I AM’ deity claims in John’s gospel (**6:35, 8:12, 10:7,9, 10:11,14, 11:25, 14:6; 15:1,5**). Jesus not only is life but conveys life to the believer so that eternal, spiritual death will never triumph over him/her. Notice how Jesus shifts the focus back from what He can do to His Person: “I AM.” He will not only raise the dead on the last day (**5:21,25**), but He Himself is the Resurrection and the Life. **“That I [Paul] may know Him and the power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:7-11).** Only in Jesus does death lose its sting (**1 Cor. 15:54-57**). Physical death has no power over the Christian. Death, in the hands of Jesus, is robbed of all its terror. So even if a believer dies physically, he/she will live spiritually and eternally forever. The answer to death is Jesus (see **Heb. 2:14-15**). “Resurrection is no longer a mere doctrine: it has a living face and a name.” We need to know and believe in the One who is ‘The Resurrection and the Life’!

:26 and everyone who lives and believes Me will never (ever) die. Do you believe this?” What great certainty for the believer! But understand, Jesus holds forth no hope to those who choose not to believe in Him (yes, there is a resurrection of the just but also a resurrection of the unjust). The one who believes in Jesus will live even if one dies physically because He will raise him/her on the last day (**5:21,25-29; 6:39-40,44,54**). Eternal life, spiritual life, can’t be extinguished by physical death. Jesus is always looking at things from the spirit/heart/nature. Will never die: shall most certainly never, ever taste eternal, spiritual death. Physical death is not the end at all. The physical is not who we are! We are spirit-beings living in these fleshly bodies for a while.

Martha is forced to take her belief to a deeper level than she had ever imagined. He is asking her if her faith can go beyond the confidence of believing that her brother will be resurrected on the last day to a more personal trust in Jesus as the Resurrection and Life. **:27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.** Yes, Lord, I’m going to focus on Your Person. You are what You claim to be—the Resurrection and the Life. **I have believed** [perfect tense; it has become a settled conviction with me]. I believe you are the Christ, the Jewish Messiah; the unique Son of God and He who comes into the world (the predicted Deliverer of the prophets: **Is. 9:6, Mic. 5:2; see Lk. 7:19-20, Jn. 1:9, 3:31, 6:14**).”

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questions. This account forces me to go to Jesus for Life, despite the circumstances. To be bound to Jesus by faith is to share now the life which is beyond death. And since everyone who lives and believes in Him has eternal life, they will never, ever die spiritually.

Read :28-37. :28 When she had said this, she went away & called Mary her sister, saying secretly, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” :29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and was coming to Him. Apparently Martha wanted Mary to have a moment or two alone with Jesus. Whatever Martha’s motive, her attempt at privacy failed. **:30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him. :31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. :32 Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”** Mary stated the same as Martha (:21). Family & friends & mourners followed Mary, thinking she was going to weep at the tomb. Mary made no request; she simply fell at the feet of Jesus and poured out her tears. Her grief was such that she could say no more.

:33-35 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping (audible, loud weeping), and the Jews who came with her *also* weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, :34 and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.” “The more unrestrained the weeping, the more honor it paid to the dead.” When Jesus saw Mary and the group with her weeping, He was **deeply moved in spirit** (lit. to snort, like a horse); it can include anger, outrage, or indignation, emotional offense (it’s also used in **:38, Mt. 9:30, Mk. 1:43, 14:5**; translated “Moved with anger; to charge sternly.” “Such deep emotion seized Jesus that an involuntary groan was wrung from Him.” The pain and sorrow caused by death, sickness, and sin. In Jesus, we see the mind and heart of God. “God is like a parent who is outraged at the effects of sin and death in his children’s lives.” This is the same emotion we feel when we read of a boy beaten to death by his father or a girl molested by some adult whom she trusts.

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As we look at **:38-44**, remember Jesus’ prediction to the disciples that the outcome of Lazarus’ death would be to the glory of God, as well as keep His promise to Martha that her brother would rise again. **Read :38-44.**

:38-39 So Jesus, again being deeply moved within [see :33], came to the tomb. Again being deeply moved (**:33**). **Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. :39 Jesus said, “Remove this stone.” Martha the sister of the deceased, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.”** Martha evidently assumed that Jesus wanted to take one last look at the body of His friend. In her mind it was too late for Jesus to do anything for Lazarus; He had not arrived in time (**:21**). The Jews did not embalm, but used aromatic spices to temporarily mask the odor of decay. They would wrap the body in linen cloth, adding spices as they wrapped. After 3 days, death was considered irreversible; after 4 days, the stench/smell! Again, she was riveting her attention upon her brother’s corpse and not upon the Resurrection and the Life.

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life. **“The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live” (5:25). Read 5:28-29.** Here Jesus calls Lazarus only. Jesus is the WORD that brought creation into being (1:3), and He is the same WORD that speaks outside the tomb and raises the dead. Lit. “Lazarus! Come Here! Outside!” **44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”** “It is weird to think of the bandaged figure staggering out from the tomb.”

Lazarus had been physically dead and was at this instant called back to life. Life was restored to the old body. Yes, he would physically die again. It was the bringing back of the spirit to the same body. His mortal body was restored for a time. Jesus—the conqueror of death, who is the first fruits of all who are asleep (1 Cor. 15:20-22), never to die again. There was the 12-year-old girl who had died (Mk. 5:22-43). There was a young man, whose body was being carried to the cemetery (Lk. 7:11-17). Now there’s Lazarus. These people were raised from the dead but it was a restoration to mortal life. None of them were given glorified bodies at that time. They all faced physical death again. Also notice, in raising Lazarus, Jesus was ministering to Martha and Mary as well.

The apostle John, who was an eyewitness to this, draws a curtain on the scene. “The story ends and silence falls, although the repercussions of this will lead to the plot to kill Jesus.”

This was a moment at which final decisions were made, either to believe and behold the glory of God, or, to reject the Resurrection and the Life. That decision was made, by Mary and Martha, the mourners, by the crowd, and by the highest tribunal of Israel.

What a study! What can we learn from this? Jesus knows how to handle the situation you are in. He can do anything. Focus your eyes and faith on Him. I pray we respond by believing in Jesus, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door of the Sheepfold, the Shepherd, the Good one, the Resurrection and the Life, the always-existing Word, who is face to face with the Father, who is God, Creator, Life, and Light (1:1-5). I would add, “The Savior of the world, the Lord of all.” What is your decision? Do you know and believe in Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life? Love you all, Joel

NOTE

(“Sent by the Father” 4:34, 5:23-24,30,36-38; 6:29,38-39,44,57; 7:16,18,28-29,33; 8:16,18,26,29,42; 9:4; 10:36; 12:44-45,49; 13:3,20; 14:24; 15:21; 16:5,27; 17:3,8,18,21,23,25, 20:21; Mt. 10:40; Mk. 9:37; Lk. 4:43, 10:16.)

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What a study! What can we learn from this? Jesus knows how to handle the situation you are in. He can do anything. Focus your eyes and faith on Him. I pray we respond by believing in Jesus, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door of the Sheepfold, the Shepherd, the Good one, the Resurrection and the Life, the always-existing Word, who is face to face with the Father, who is God, Creator, Life, and Light (1:1-5). I would add, “The Savior of the world, the Lord of all.” What is your decision? Do you know and believe in Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life? Love you all, Joel

NOTE

(“Sent by the Father” 4:34, 5:23-24,30,36-38; 6:29,38-39,44,57; 7:16,18,28-29,33; 8:16,18,26,29,42; 9:4; 10:36; 12:44-45,49; 13:3,20; 14:24; 15:21; 16:5,27; 17:3,8,18,21,23,25, 20:21; Mt. 10:40; Mk. 9:37; Lk. 4:43, 10:16.)

Greetings, fellow disciples. In **Jn. 11:25** Jesus claims, “**I AM the Resurrection and the Life**” (**Jn. 11:25**)! Jesus makes this statement just moments before He raises a dead man from the dead! This claim was made after He had already claimed to be the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door of the Sheep Pen, and the Good Shepherd. Only 2 more claims to make (**14:6, 15:1**). That Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life means “Life can be faced with joyous anticipation instead of anxious fear, because Jesus has conquered death.” As someone outlined **11:17-44**: “In the first movement, Martha’s faith is challenged (:17-27); in the second, Mary’s grief is shared (:28-37); while in the third, Lazarus’ life is restored (:38-44).” But focus on Jesus!

Read Jn. 11:17-27. :17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. The term tomb means a stone gravesite, either a cave or rock area, which would be carved out, the floor inside leveled. Shelves were cut out or constructed inside the area in order to bury family members. A huge stone then would be rolled in front of the opening to prevent wild animals or grave robbers from entering. The Jews did not embalm and the climate was warm so death and burial would have taken place on the same day. The body of Lazarus had already started to decompose after 4 days (:39).

:18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off. This Bethany was more than 20 miles from Perea, a hard day’s journey. **:19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.** Martha, the one who loved action. Mary, the one who loved quietly listening. “From the human perspective, the mourners were there to comfort the sisters in their loss, but from God’s perspective, they were there to witness a stunning miracle.” Many mourners would remain with the family for an entire week. A procession composed of relatives, friends, and often hired mourners would have accompanied the body of Lazarus to the grave. Mourning usually included loud wailing & beating of the breast. Martha and Mary were hurting.

:20 Martha therefore when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. :21 Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Her words were a testimony of her trust in Jesus’ healing power. She had faith that He could have saved her brother if Jesus had just come while Lazarus still lived. How often those words must have come to the lips of the 2 sisters since their brother’s death: “Oh, if only Jesus had been here!” Humanly speaking, the sisters’ message had arrived too late for Jesus to have returned to Bethany in time to heal Lazarus. Could they be thinking of **4:46-54**, of how over a distance Jesus had healed the dying son? Remember **11:4,15 (read)**.

:22 Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” “In the heart of Martha, the darkness of grief and the light of hope were engaged in deadly combat. Whenever she riveted her attention on Jesus, His power, wisdom, and love, she expected great things [see especially **:22** and **:27**]. Whenever she looked away from Jesus and dwelt on the power of death, she became pessimistic [see especially **:24** and **:39**]. That confidence, however, evidently did not extend to Jesus’ ability to resurrect her brother, as her later

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hesitation when the tomb was opened makes clear (:39).” Martha was looking for Jesus’ comfort, for the peace that only God can give to a person who is burdened and saddened, torn with grief. Martha’s faith was placed right where ours often is, in what she thought should have happened, not in who Jesus is!!

: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 on the last day. I agree with You that he’ll rise again.” In Martha’s mind, Jesus was referring to the resurrection at the end of history. Individual resurrection is at least implied in **Job 19:25-27, Ps. 16:10, Is. 26:19, Ezek. 37:1-14, Hos. 6:2, Dan. 12:2.**

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:26 and everyone who lives and believes Me will never (ever) die. **Do you believe this?**” What great certainty for the believer! But understand, Jesus holds forth no hope to those who choose not to believe in Him (yes, there is a resurrection of the just but also a resurrection of the unjust). The one who believes in Jesus will live even if one dies physically because He will raise him/her on the last day (5:21,25-29; 6:39-40,44,54). Eternal life, spiritual life, can’t be extinguished by physical death. Jesus is always looking at things from the spirit/heart/nature. Will never die: shall most certainly never, ever taste eternal, spiritual death. Physical death is not the end at all. The physical is not who we are! We are spirit-beings living in these fleshly bodies for a while.

Martha is forced to take her belief to a deeper level than she had ever imagined. He is asking her if her faith can go beyond the confidence of believing that her brother will be resurrected on the last day to a more personal trust in Jesus as the Resurrection and Life. :27 She said to Him, “**Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.** Yes, Lord, I’m going to focus on Your Person. You are what You claim to be—the Resurrection and the Life. **I have believed** [perfect tense; it has become a settled conviction with me]. I believe you are the Christ, the Jewish Messiah; the unique Son of God and He who comes into the world (the predicted Deliverer of the prophets: **Is. 9:6, Mic. 5:2; see Lk. 7:19-20, Jn. 1:9, 3:31, 6:14**).”

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Read :28-37. :28 When she had said this, she went away & called Mary her sister, saying secretly, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” :29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and was coming to Him. Apparently Martha wanted Mary to have a moment or two alone with Jesus. Whatever Martha’s motive, her attempt at privacy failed. **:30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him. :31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. :32 Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”** Mary stated the same as Martha (:21). Family & friends & mourners followed Mary, thinking she was going to weep at the tomb. Mary made no request; she simply fell at the feet of Jesus and poured out her tears. Her grief was such that she could say no more.

:33-35 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping (audible, loud weeping), and the Jews who came with her *also* weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, :34 and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.” “The more unrestrained the weeping, the more honor it paid to the dead.” When Jesus saw Mary and the group with her weeping, He was **deeply moved in spirit** (lit. to snort, like a horse); it can include anger, outrage, or indignation, emotional offense (it’s also used in **:38, Mt. 9:30, Mk. 1:43, 14:5**; translated “Moved with anger; to charge sternly.” “Such deep emotion seized Jesus that an involuntary groan was wrung from Him.” The pain and sorrow caused by death, sickness, and sin. In Jesus, we see the mind and heart of God. “God is like a parent who is outraged at the effects of sin and death in his children’s lives.” This is the same emotion we feel when we read of a boy beaten to death by his father or a girl molested by some adult whom she trusts.

Troubled expresses agitation. To stir up, to disturb. Jesus was also troubled in **12:27, 13:21**. In the presence of death, **:35 Jesus wept**. Here is a God who cares! **Wept** means silently bursting into tears, unlike the typical funeral mourners. Tears of genuine sympathy. He is sharing their heartbreak. **Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15**; this is in the context of persecution!). Like a parent who cries as he/she watches his child in pain. God understands, God loves, God cares, God hurts. And, He also gives life! In fact, Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. He gives us Himself!

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that Jesus and the Father would be glorified (:4,40), and, they would believe.

As we look at :38-44, remember Jesus' prediction to the disciples that the outcome of Lazarus' death would be to the glory of God, as well as keep His promise to Martha that her brother would rise again. **Read :38-44.**

:38-39 So Jesus, again being deeply moved within [see :33], **came to the tomb.** Again being deeply moved (:33). **Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.** :39 **Jesus said, "Remove this stone."** Martha the sister of the deceased, **said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days."** Martha evidently assumed that Jesus wanted to take one last look at the body of His friend. In her mind it was too late for Jesus to do anything for Lazarus; He had not arrived in time (:21). The Jews did not embalm, but used aromatic spices to temporarily mask the odor of decay. They would wrap the body in linen cloth, adding spices as they wrapped. After 3 days, death was considered irreversible; after 4 days, the stench/smell! Again, she was riveting her attention upon her brother's corpse and not upon the Resurrection and the Life.

:40-41a Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" :41a **So they removed the stone.** "Tears in His eyes and anguish in His heart." "Stop being concerned about your brother's body and start focusing on God and who He is." Though all present would see the miracle, only those who had faith in Jesus would see the fullness of God's glory reflected in it. The glory (honor) of God is His ultimate concern. Faith does not mean we will not feel pain. Faith means that even in death, we believe that God can work and give life. "Our focus is on death's Conqueror."

:41b-42 Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. :42 **I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me."** (Sent by the Father, used over 40 times in the Gospels.)

Jesus prayed out loud so that the crowd might hear. Jesus addressed God directly as Father. What He is going to do is the will of the Father so that the Father will get the glory. Faith in Jesus is in fact faith in God. He "utters aloud the prayer which was always the very substance of His unbroken communion with His Father." Looking up, He prayed, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I know You always hear Me. I'm praying out loud so the people here will believe that You sent Me." Jesus is the Sent One from God the Father. Believe it; believe in God's Sent One!" See NOTE.

:43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." The power which flowed through Him was not His; it was the Father's (Acts 2:22). He did nothing on His own; He acted in total dependence on the Father. No showmanship, theatrics, or hype. Just, with a loud voice (perhaps a shout!), Jesus cries out: "Lazarus, come forth!" It's amazing that the dead respond to His call. And, like physically-dead Lazarus, every person is within Jesus' reach. Also, had He not addressed Lazarus by name, all the dead in all the graves would have come forth! Only Jesus can call the dead to

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life. **“The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live” (5:25). Read 5:28-29.** Here Jesus calls Lazarus only. Jesus is the WORD that brought creation into being (1:3), and He is the same WORD that speaks outside the tomb and raises the dead. Lit. “Lazarus! Come Here! Outside!” :44 **The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”** “It is weird to think of the bandaged figure staggering out from the tomb.”

Lazarus had been physically dead and was at this instant called back to life. Life was restored to the old body. Yes, he would physically die again. It was the bringing back of the spirit to the same body. His mortal body was restored for a time. Jesus—the conqueror of death, who is the first fruits of all who are asleep (1 Cor. 15:20-22), never to die again. There was the 12-year-old girl who had died (Mk. 5:22-43). There was a young man, whose body was being carried to the cemetery (Lk. 7:11-17). Now there’s Lazarus. These people were raised from the dead but it was a restoration to mortal life. None of them were given glorified bodies at that time. They all faced physical death again. Also notice, in raising Lazarus, Jesus was ministering to Martha and Mary as well.

The apostle John, who was an eyewitness to this, draws a curtain on the scene. “The story ends and silence falls, although the repercussions of this will lead to the plot to kill Jesus.”

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NOTE

(“Sent by the Father” 4:34, 5:23-24,30,36-38; 6:29,38-39,44,57; 7:16,18,28-29,33; 8:16,18,26,29,42; 9:4; 10:36; 12:44-45,49; 13:3,20; 14:24; 15:21; 16:5,27; 17:3,8,18,21,23,25, 20:21; Mt. 10:40; Mk. 9:37; Lk. 4:43, 10:16.)

life. **“The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live” (5:25). Read 5:28-29.** Here Jesus calls Lazarus only. Jesus is the WORD that brought creation into being (1:3), and He is the same WORD that speaks outside the tomb and raises the dead. Lit. “Lazarus! Come Here! Outside!” :44 **The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”** “It is weird to think of the bandaged figure staggering out from the tomb.”

Lazarus had been physically dead and was at this instant called back to life. Life was restored to the old body. Yes, he would physically die again. It was the bringing back of the spirit to the same body. His mortal body was restored for a time. Jesus—the conqueror of death, who is the first fruits of all who are asleep (1 Cor. 15:20-22), never to die again. There was the 12-year-old girl who had died (Mk. 5:22-43). There was a young man, whose body was being carried to the cemetery (Lk. 7:11-17). Now there’s Lazarus. These people were raised from the dead but it was a restoration to mortal life. None of them were given glorified bodies at that time. They all faced physical death again. Also notice, in raising Lazarus, Jesus was ministering to Martha and Mary as well.

The apostle John, who was an eyewitness to this, draws a curtain on the scene. “The story ends and silence falls, although the repercussions of this will lead to the plot to kill Jesus.”

This was a moment at which final decisions were made, either to believe and behold the glory of God, or, to reject the Resurrection and the Life. That decision was made, by Mary and Martha, the mourners, by the crowd, and by the highest tribunal of Israel.

What a study! What can we learn from this? Jesus knows how to handle the situation you are in. He can do anything. Focus your eyes and faith on Him. I pray we respond by believing in Jesus, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door of the Sheepfold, the Shepherd, the Good one, the Resurrection and the Life, the always-existing Word, who is face to face with the Father, who is God, Creator, Life, and Light (1:1-5). I would add, “The Savior of the world, the Lord of all.” What is your decision? Do you know and believe in Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life? Love you all, Joel

NOTE

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