

**Series: Jesus 7 'I AM' Statements**  
**"I AM the Resurrection and the Life" – Pt. 2**  
**John 11:17-46**

**Big Idea – Jesus gives us the victory over sin and death.**

Last week started John 11 and saw three things:

1. The critically ill man – vs. 1, 2
2. The concerned sisters – vs. 3-6
3. The compassionate Savior – vs. 7 – 16

Today we will look directly into the miracle of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

**1. The arrival of Jesus at Bethany – vs. 17- 36**

When Jesus arrives Martha went out to meet him and expresses her disappointment that Jesus had not been there earlier.

But she expressed her belief that God the Father would give Jesus whatever He asked Him! – vs. 27

Question: If Jesus was God why did He have to ask the Father?

Answer: Bible teaches that when Jesus came He voluntarily made himself a little lower than the angels. Philippians 2 says that He laid aside the exercise of all His attributes and limited them to the Father's will. He still had all His power but he used it only in the framework of the predetermined plan of the Father and Him in heaven before He came to earth. One of the restrictions was that He would ask and obey the Father in every situation.

When Jesus said to her that Lazarus would rise again, she thought He meant in the resurrection of the just at the end of the world. She knew her Old Testament scriptures like

Job 19:25 "But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last.

26 And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God!

27 I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!"

Psalms 16:8 "I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.

10 because you will not leave me in the grave. You will not let your holy one rot.

11 You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever."

Jesus now makes His fifth great I AM statement

John 11:25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

Martha thinks Jesus is talking about an event, not understanding that He is talking about a person, Himself. Jesus is the blessed life of God, the resurrection past, present and future.

Christianity is not a belief in theology, but in a person, Jesus Christ.

In vs. 25-27 Jesus is both talking about physical life and spiritual life.

Once you believe in Him death is abolished totally like Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 "O death where is your sting, O grave where is your victory? Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Love – vs. 28 – 36

We see Mary's love for Jesus (her love was great, her faith weak)

Jesus' love for them – He wept, and groaned in His spirit – He was upset over sin and its consequences – death, pain and sorrow. That's truly a sympathetic Savior – He wept and the people there felt how Jesus loved Lazarus

## **2. The Miracle – vs. 37 – 44**

The perplexity – They knew of His power (vs. 37) but questioned His timing.

The problem – In Palestine most graves were in a cave or rock area with a cartwheel shaped stone rolled in front of it. He told them to roll the stone away, because it's part of God's purposes to use men to do what they can do.

Martha's problem was she could only see the corpse, the problem! It stinks!

The promise – He says, if you will believe you will see the glory of God!

The prayer – vs. 41 is not really a petition but a thanksgiving!

The power – Lazarus, come forth! They were so stunned He had to tell them to cut him loose from the wrappings of the graveclothes.

Someday, if we're not all raptured out of here, our bodies are going to come out of the grave changed from mortal, to immortal, from corruptible, to incorruptible.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 So this body that can be destroyed will clothe itself with that which can never be destroyed, and this body that dies will clothe itself with that which can never die. When this happens, this Scripture will be made true: "Death is destroyed forever in victory."

## **3. The result of the miracle – vs. 45 – 57**

John 11:45, 51, 52; Acts 4:12; Proverbs 19:21

John 11:45 Many of the Jews, who had come to visit Mary and saw what Jesus did, believed in him.

Many believed on Him. To be meaningful faith must be placed on the right object, Jesus Christ. It's not enough to just "believe" in "believing" – faith is nothing unless it is placed in Jesus Christ. Peter said, "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other Name under heaven, given among men whereby you must be saved," Acts 4:12

Jesus Christ is definitive – you can't just believe any old thing you want!

We know their faith was genuine because the unbelieving Jewish leaders in vs. 48 were scared that a lot more people would believe.

High priest prophesied Jesus would die for the whole nation – he didn't realize how true and profound a statement he was making.

Proverbs 19:21 There are many plans in a man's head. Nevertheless, the Lord's counsel, that will stand.

Pharisees and Sadducees plotted to kill Jesus – vs. 53

Mary, Martha & Lazarus were strengthened in their faith.

John 12:10-11 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also,  
11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.