

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE | FULL | JULY 29 2018

OVERVIEW PARAGRAPH

The previous I am statements were set amidst different Jewish festivals, however this particular statement was set in the midst of a personal crisis (John 11:1-44). It is from this angle that we look at this statement today and ask what Jesus may be speaking to us today.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life:

- Christianity is based Christ's resurrection, without it there is no Christian faith
- Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection we can have eternal life
- In order to receive this gift of eternal life we simply need to confess with our mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead (Roman's 10:9)

Jesus not only gives us eternal life for the future but life to the full in the here and now (Zoe life)

- Martha said that she believed in Jesus at least twice in this account, yet was not able to bring this into her current difficult situation
- Jesus set out to show Martha and us that he not only brings eternal life for the future but also life and life to the full right here and right now - nothing is impossible for him - 4 days in the tomb was not enough to deter Jesus from raising Lazarus from the dead!

Jesus brings life, he restores what has been broken, lost, abandoned or discarded:

- Relationships
- Health
- Gifts, talents, abilities - purpose
- Dreams

The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy...but I have come that they may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10)

- Jesus restores and brings life to those things the enemy has stolen!
 - John 11:40: Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?"
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- We need to believe for those things that seem impossible (He's been dead 4 days and he stinks - paraphrase of John 11: 39)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are we living with an eternal perspective?
 - Do we see the big picture?
 - Is our daily life evident of our belief?
2. What in your life feels like it has been dead for 4 days?
3. Do you have faith to believe that Jesus can enter into any situation or circumstance and bring life?
4. If not, why not?