

**Subject: *Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life, Part 2***

**Scripture: *John 11:38-57***

D. L. Moody, the great evangelist, once searched the Bible for a text that Jesus used at a funeral. He thought whatever Jesus said would be very appropriate. Much to his surprise, Moody found that Jesus never preached a funeral, but He did interrupt a few.

### **CHRIST'S PRESENCE AND PROMISE (vs. 17-27)**

Everything changed when Jesus showed up. Before He came there was death and despair, but after He came there was hope and life.

Martha: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died, but even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give it to you."

Jesus: "Your brother will rise again."

Martha: "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." She believed in a future resurrection taught in the Scripture. Time is no problem for the One who is the resurrection and the life. He can raise the dead and give life now as well as later.

Then Jesus made a statement and a claim:

***John 11:25-26*** <sup>25</sup> *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: <sup>26</sup> And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*

### **CHRIST'S POWER AND PURPOSE (vs. 38-44)**

Jesus made some amazing claims, but He backed them all up with His amazing power. He said, "I am the light of the world." He proved it by giving sight to a man born blind. He said, "I am the bread of life." He proved it by feeding a multitude with a few loaves and fish.

Jesus not only claimed to be the resurrection and the life, He proved it by raising Lazarus from the grave. This is the same power He will demonstrate in the future. ***John 5:28-29*** <sup>28</sup> *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, <sup>29</sup> And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.* What happened to Lazarus is a foretaste of what will happen in the future.

- His preparation

Jesus first told them to take away the stone from the grave. This accomplished two things. The grave was now ready for Lazarus to come out, and Martha was ready to see the glory of God.

- His prayer

This was not a prayer asking for anything, but thanking the Father for hearing and answering. Jesus probably prayed when He first knew that Lazarus was sick (vs. 3). He was working on

the Father's timetable and He knew what the outcome would be. We should thank God in advance for answered prayer.

- His power

When Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth," there was silence. Everyone was waiting and watching. All of a sudden he walked out of that grave. Jesus only needed to speak one time. With a simple command Jesus healed the sick, calmed the sea, cast out demons and now raised the dead.

- His purpose

Lazarus came out of the grave bound hand and foot with grave clothes. The Jews didn't embalm the dead, but wrapped the body in linen cloth and put layers of spices in the layers. The body was not wrapped tightly like an Egyptian mummy, but the linen cloth was wrapped loosely and the head was wrapped separately. Lazarus had life, but no liberty. Jesus raised him and then released him, "Loose him and let him go."

This is a picture of God's work in salvation. We are dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1), but Christ has made us alive. He also sets us free so we can live for Him and serve Him. Jesus saves us from the penalty of sin (death) and the power of sin (bondage). Verse 44 tells us that Lazarus was bound hand and foot and even his face, but Jesus set him free everywhere. He sets us free so we can walk with Him, work for Him, and witness for Him.

In the Judgment House drama we experienced the heaven scene. Ever wonder why the Lord doesn't take us to heaven the moment we are saved? He leaves us here to walk with Him, work for Him, and witness for Him. Can you imagine how Lazarus must have felt after Jesus raised him from the dead? What a testimony he had. No doubt he lived the rest of his life to honor the One who raised him and gave him new life. He must have said, "Everything I have and all that I am belongs to Jesus. I'll use my feet, my hands, my mouth, my all for Him."

We call this the land of the living, but it is actually the land of the dying. It is appointed unto men once to die, and after that the judgment. We don't have to fear death and judgment because we know Jesus who is the resurrection and the life. Death is just a doorway we pass through to get to the other side. We're not on our way to death, but to life.

### **CHRIST'S PATIENCE AND PROVIDENCE (vs. 45-57)**

In verses 45-57, we see the response of the people to this amazing miracle. Many of the Jews believed on Jesus, but some did not and they reported all that happened to the religious leaders. No matter what Jesus said or did there was always a divided response among the people—some believed in Him and others rejected Him. This time the rejection turned into outright hostility and a definite plan to arrest Him and kill Him. The Jewish council, the Sanhedrin, met and at that meeting Caiaphas the high priest made a statement that reflected the will of the body. It will be to our advantage for one man to die for the people rather than the whole nation die. To Caiaphas and the religious leaders this was a pragmatic decision, but unknown to them, it was actually a prophecy that Jesus would fulfill in dying for the people and all God's children to save them. God rules and overrules in the affairs of men and the events of history. Even though they don't realize it at the time, God uses His enemies to accomplish His will. You had better be sure that you believe in Christ and receive Him now.