

The Resurrection and the Life

John 11:25-26

March 27, 2016

Introduction

Every Easter we gather to celebrate the Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection. We celebrate the reality of His resurrection because it is His rising from the grave that shows us that our sins have been and will still be forgiven and that we will have eternal life. His resurrection is the stamp of approval from God what Jesus had done on earth.

The resurrection also answers two most important questions that a human being can ask: has anyone ever beaten death, and has that person shown us how to beat death. We see that all around us through advertisement, stores, and health professionals that offer us solutions on how to beat death. Death is the enemy that we face, but praise be to God that He has provided a way for us to beat death through Christ. John Owens, the famous Puritan preacher and writer, wrote a book that wonderfully sums up what Jesus did, and it is called *The Death of Death in the Death of Jesus Christ*. How did He do this? He explains to Martha who He is and His power.

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

I. The Setting

- Lazarus becomes sick

John 11:1-3 *Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped His feet with her hair. 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one You love is sick."*

- Bethany
 - Less than miles from Jerusalem between Jerusalem and Jericho (**John 11:18**)

John 11:18 *Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem,*

- Mary and Martha
 - Same sisters that was with Jesus in **Luke 10:38-42**
 - Lazarus is their brother
 - Jesus had a very close relationship with the family

John 11:5 *Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.*

- Jesus does not immediately leave for Bethany, but stays a few more days
 - Jesus knew that Lazarus would and had died
 - The disciples were afraid to go back to the Jerusalem area because the Jewish leaders have tried to kill Jesus
 - He stays behind so that He can perform one last public miracle
 - He does this for the benefit of the disciples

John 11:15 *and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.*

- Jesus arrives in Bethany
 - Lazarus had already been dead for four days
 - There was no doubt
 - Jewish way—when body is dead; body immediately buried
 - They do not embalm bodies (drain fluid from body)
 - The body decomposes and smells

John 11:39 *"Take away the stone," He said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor [KJV—he stinketh], for he has been there four days."*

- There are many people at the funeral\
 - Jewish funeral custom—seven days of family mourning
 - Family and friends gather together to comfort those in grief
 - Large number of people (100s)
- Martha full of sadness and grief

John 11:20-22 *When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask."*

- This is not a lack of faith, but full of grief
- She fully believed that Jesus could heal
 - She does not seem to understand that Jesus can raise the dead
 - What about Jairus' daughter? Or the Nain widow's son?
 - They might have been dead for a short time, but to many observers, they might not have been fully dead
- She also understood that Jesus is sent from God
 - And she also believed that Jesus is the Messiah

John 11:27 *"Yes, Lord," she told Him, "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."*

- She also understood and believed in the resurrection
 - As promised in Old Testament (**Job 19:25-27; Daniel 12:2**, etc)
 - Jesus Himself taught the resurrection (**John 5:27-29; 6:54**)
- She believed in the future resurrection, not the now

II. The Reality of the Resurrection and the Life

- Jesus says "I am"
 - Fifth of seven "I am" statement by Jesus in Gospel of John
 - Jesus is saying what God said to Moses

Exodus 3:14 *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' "*

- When Jesus said "I AM" there was no misunderstanding from the Jews

John 8:58-59 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"
59 At this, they picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

- They thought He was speaking blasphemy
- I am the resurrection and the life
 - Not "I will be"
- Life and death
 - He shall live even though he dies
 - Will never die
 - What is Jesus talking about?
 - Man is destined to die—physical death
 - Man also experiences spiritual death—now and future

Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

Revelation 20:14-15 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. **15** If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- Second death = eternal separation from God and place of punishment
- When a person believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior
 - He has new life—new spiritual life (born again)
 - This person will never be apart from God for eternity (eternal life)
- How can this be?
- I am the resurrection and the life
 - Jesus Himself
 - I am the resurrection
 - Jesus is saying that He has the power to raise people from the dead
 - He has proven this at least 3 times in His ministry
 - Jairus's daughter (**Mark 5:22-43**)
 - Son of the widow of Nain (**Luke 7:11-15**)
 - Lazarus

John 11:43-44 When He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" **44** The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

- He has the power over death
 - Death is not even a barrier for Him
- How is this possible?
- I am the life
 - He is life
 - He is the originator, creator of life
 - Peter calls Jesus the Prince of life

Acts 3:14-15 But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15** and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

- John calls Him the creator of life

John 1:4 *In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

- His life is the same as the Father's

John 5:26 *For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.*

- In other words, Jesus is saying that He is God
 - If Jesus died how can He create life?
- The resurrection of Jesus
 - Jesus Himself that He has the power over His own life

John 10:11, 15, 17, 18 *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father—and I lay down My life for the sheep. 17 The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life—only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from My Father.*

- God raised Him from the dead

Acts 3:15 *and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.*

- Jesus also said that He will raise Himself from the grave

John 2:19-22 *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." 20 The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and You are going to raise it in three days?" 21 But the temple He had spoken of was His body. 22 After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what He had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.*

- He crushed death

Hebrews 2:14 *Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.*

- Why?
 - To prove that God is satisfied that all that Jesus had done
 - To prove that Jesus is the Son of God
 - To prove that we will receive eternal life

Coram Deo

Do you believe? That is what Jesus asked Martha and this is what He asks today. Do you believe? The evidence is plentiful, since there are numerous eyewitnesses and their stories all agree. Jesus was buried for three days and the tomb is empty. Jesus appeared to many people. The heart of the gospel is that Jesus rose again. Do you believe? If you believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, then you will live and never die! He has proven that Himself!