

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life!" John 11:1-44

Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:26 AM

Intro: Can anyone tell me if there is a difference in meaning between a house and a home? A house is a structure, while a home is or ought to be a place of peace and rest. Therefore, you may have a mortgage on a house or rent a house, apartment, or trailer house; they all could be home if Christ is the centerpiece.

If you recall, Jesus had no house, tent, or dwelling for the last three to three and one-half years of His ministry. Jesus had close friends who provided Him a place To rest and find understanding and peace during His ministry's good and rough portions. We meet this family again in John 11. There were two sisters, Martha and Mary, and their brother, Lazarus.

In this beautiful narrative, we find out that Lazarus is ill with a terminal illness. Lazarus' two sisters sent word to Jesus that His friend was sick. This is a story of love and grace and great theology that has application to us today. Let's dive into this passage and see God's great truths today.

1. The Death of Lazarus. Vs. 1-16

- a. Lazarus and Eleazar mean God is my hope.**
- b. Lazarus was sick.**
- c. Jesus delayed going to Lazarus for two days.**
- d. After two days, Jesus told the disciples to go with Him to Judea.**
 - i. Notice that biblical love always is risky.**
 - ii. Jesus answered that it is the right thing to do using everyday illustrations.**
 - iii. Jesus' response reflects His declaration, "I am the Light of the World."**
- e. Jesus used the word "sleep" as a synonym for died.**
 - i. The disciples thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was sleeping, which is good for a sick person.**
 - ii. Jesus had to explain to them that Lazarus was dead.**
 - iii. Jesus told them that He would raise Lazarus from the dead.**
 - iv. This was all part of the Father's plan, so they might believe.**
 - v. In this case, Thomas seemed to be courageously resolute to die with Jesus if it came to that.**

2. A Time of Mourning. Vs. 17-37

- a. By the time Jesus arrived at Lazarus' house, Lazarus had been dead for**

- four days.
 - b. This was a time of mourning for Mary and Martha.
 - c. Note: Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem.
 - i. Therefore, many people came to comfort Martha and Mary during this time of grief.
 - d. When Jesus came into the area, she went out to meet Him while Mary stayed home.
 - e. Martha's dialogue with Jesus gives us a glimpse of biblical faith.
 - i. Martha knew in her heart that God would give Jesus whatever Jesus had asked.
 - ii. Jesus assured Martha that Lazarus would rise again.
 - iii. Martha affirmed that, but only at the resurrection on the last day.
 - f. Jesus declared another tremendous theological truth, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die."
 - g. Jesus then asked Martha to decide if she believed Jesus. This is a crucial question for all today.
 - i. Martha's answer illustrates what biblical truth looks like.
 - 1) Martha replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into this world."
 - h. Martha went back to tell Mary privately that Jesus had arrived and was asking for her.
 - i. Look at Mary's response: She got up quickly and went to Jesus.
 - ii. Her guests followed her to the tomb because of the urgency with which she left.
 - iii. Mary fell at Jesus' feet and repeated the same thing Martha said, Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
 - i. Jesus, being fully human and fully God, wept over the death of His friend.
 - j. Jesus asked Mary where they had laid Lazarus.
 - k. Mary lead Jesus to the grave.
 - l. Because Jesus wept, the people realized how much Jesus loved Lazarus.
 - m. Some people wondered if Jesus could heal a man blind from birth, could He have kept Lazarus from death?
 - i. We need to be careful of this wrong thinking and look at this from God's perspective.
3. From Grief to Joy. Vs. 38-44
- a. Once again, Jesus was deeply moved.
 - b. Jesus gave the command to take away the stone.
 - c. Martha objected because, after four days, the body would be decaying and who generate a stench.

- i. Jesus gave Martha a mild rebuke reminding her that He said if she believed, she would see the glory of God.
- d. They took the stone away.
 - i. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me,
 - ii. When Jesus said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"
 - iii. The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with a strip of linen and a cloth around his face.
- e. Jesus told the people to remove Lazarus' grave clothes and let him go.
 - i. This is a beautiful picture of being dead in sin, being raised with Christ the moment we trust Him, and the discipleship process.

Conclusion:

- 1) Jesus is the resurrection and the life!
 - a. The one who believes in Christ will live even though they die.
 - b. Whoever lives by faith in Christ will never, no not ever die.
 - c. Do you believe this?
- 2) God's glory must be the priority in our lives!
 - a. In our families.
 - b. In our work.
 - c. In our relationships.
 - d. In our church.
- 3) This is the day the Lord has made.
 - a. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.