

The Resurrection And The Life

John 11:17-27 - 17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

John 11:5-6 - 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

He loved them...so he waited and let him die. - That doesn't make sense.

Have you ever been frustrated when someone takes their time...and you're in a hurry. I've noticed every time I'm in a hurry...NO ONE ELSE is in a hurry. Just me.

They were worrying...then their worry turned to mourning...worry causes us to doubt God. To doubt his word...even after he has proven himself to us over and over again.

**Worry puts distance between you and God. Worry fuels your doubt.
Worship brings you close to God.**

John 11:22-24 - 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "**Your brother will rise again.**" 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Says something she really doesn't believe - "I know whatever you ask God will give you." Have you ever said something you don't really believe but knew you were supposed to say it?

John 11:25-26 - 25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha says..yes I do believe...but she went away and told Mary Jesus was there...v32

John 11:32 - "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

They had an expectation that Jesus was going to come on their time table and do what they expected. What happens when our expectations don't meet reality?

Maybe you're like Mary & Martha saying - Where were you? Where were you in the painful moments of my past...where are you in the middle of where we are right now?

Many people are in places they never expected to be:

- Sheltering in place.

- Afraid of a sickness or pandemic
- Without a job in a financial crisis
- Fear of an uncertain future - everything you thought was certain has become uncertain
- Maybe you find yourself hopeless for the first time...longing for hope

Waiting isn't always bad. Waiting creates the opportunity for something far greater than we were expecting.

God is not in the business of just meeting expectations but exceeding expectations
Ephesians 3:20 - He wants to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or think.

In order to exceed their expectations...he had to let Lazarus die. - Jesus actually said in v 15 - I'm glad he died...so you would see the greater thing I want to do.

YOU CAN'T RESURRECT SOMETHING UNLESS IT'S DEAD

The I AM statement Jesus made was to get them to understand...The resurrection isn't about an event...it's about a person.

Because it's not just what he does...**IT'S WHO HE IS.**

For the believer, death is never in front of you, it's always behind you.

To experience a resurrection...we have to die. Die to ourselves. Our own plan for our lives... Sometimes our expectations have to die.

The resurrection isn't just about getting us to heaven...but getting heaven to us. No circumstance can stop heaven from coming to you.

It's not just about getting to heaven one day...but getting heaven into us today. You can have hope, joy, peace and life today!