

“I AM” The Resurrection and the Life  
John 11:1-44

v. 1-16

The Death of Lazarus

- Jesus had a friend named Lazarus and he fell sick.
- This was not any ordinary sickness like a cold but rather something that would lead to his death.
- Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, sent for Jesus but He did not go.
- He knew that He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead based on His comments in v. 4.
- He intentionally stayed away for a few days and allowed Lazarus to die and remain dead for a period of time.
- After this time was up Jesus would go into Bethany and visit with Mary and Martha.

v. 17-27

Lazarus in the Tomb

- Jesus arrives in Bethany and finds that Lazarus has already been in the tomb for four days. (This is key to understanding the culture of the Jews)
- He came near to the city and Martha ran out to meet Him.
- Her tone is a bit accusatory as she speaks to Him.
- “Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died”.
- I'm sure that she is speaking out of her grief and Jesus understands that.

## I AM the Resurrection and the Life

- Jesus comforts her by telling her that Lazarus will live again but she mistakenly believes Him to be talking about the resurrection on the last day.
- Jews, specifically Pharisaical Jews, believed that there would be a bodily resurrection on the last day.
- Saducees did not believe in a bodily resurrection.
- Jesus further clarifies what He is saying by telling her “I am the resurrection and the life”.

## Ego Eimi

- There are two ways to say the phrase “I am” in the Greek language.
- The first is the word *Ego*.
- This is where we get the English word *ego* which is our personality or personal identity.
- The other way to say I am in Greek is the word *Eimi*.
- To us this seems redundant that Jesus would say “I AM, I AM”.
- This is not a translation error or Jesus misspeaking. It is direct and intentional.
- The only other time that this phrasing is seen is in the Greek Septuagint, which is the Greek Old Testament.
- Exodus 3:14
- Jesus is declaring His divinity with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His Heavenly origin with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His authority with this statement.

## v. 28-37

### Perceived Blasphemy

- This is the 5th time that Jesus has equated Himself with the Father by having sovereignty over life and death.
- Here He would demonstrate His power over life and death.
- We see here that Jesus had human emotions that He was truly human.
- That's the only way that people really knew Him.
- In just a moment we will see the hypostatic union in action as Jesus shows His true humanity by weeping over Lazarus and his family but then raises Lazarus from the dead.
- Jesus is truly God and truly man.

## v. 38-44

### Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

- By the time Jesus had arrived, Lazarus had already been dead in the tomb for four days.
- This is important because the Jewish culture believed that the spirit of the departed hovered around the body for 3 days before going into the afterlife.
- In other words, according to Jewish tradition, Lazarus was dead and gone by this point.
- He was so gone that there was already the foul odor of decomposing flesh in his tomb.
- Jesus prays to the Father and then cries out in a loud voice for Lazarus to come out of the tomb and Lazarus walks out.

### The Afterlife

- Jesus' action here is very important to understanding just who He is.
- The people were dismayed because Lazarus had departed to the afterlife and rightfully so.
- Just like today, when people died they stayed dead.

- Resurrection was not a regular occurrence back then.
- There was no reason for them to hope in the near future about their brother Lazarus.
- Take a look at our own culture.
- We mock and laugh at those who look for comfort in all the wrong places but can we blame them?
- Look at the current state of the world and what they've been taught about life as well as our origins.
- There's no hope among the young generations.
- We have to be very clear about our message and a big part of that is that the afterlife is very real.
- It's as real as the reality we are experiencing right now.
- Death is not final.

#### The Resurrection

- On the last day, Jesus will return and resurrect all of the dead, beginning with the dead in Christ first.
- The dead in Christ will raise to life everlasting while the dead outside of Christ will raise to eternal death in a place the Bible calls Hell.
- Jesus declares to Martha that there will be a resurrection at the end and He is the Lord of it.
- He demonstrates that to them by raising Lazarus from the dead after being dead for 4 days!
- Death is no obstacle for Jesus.
- For those who are in Him there will never be a separation from Him even though we die.

