

## Lessons on the Way to a Resurrection

John 11.1-27

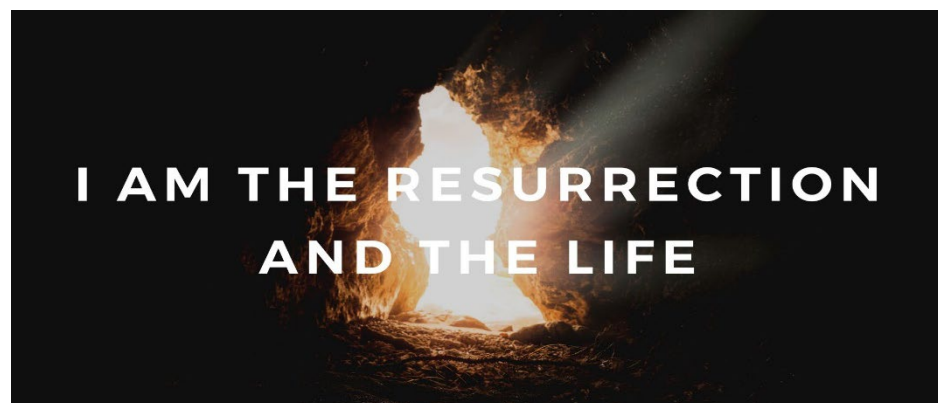
The story of Jesus raising Lazarus presents us with the certainty of death and the possibility of living forever. We'll all face it one day, and we all wonder: *What then?* What's beyond 'the veil'? Can we know for certain where we'll be? Jesus uses this setting to teach us critical truths.

The Narrative

- Jesus receives word that Lazarus is sick, but delays going (1-6)
- Jesus goes to Bethany against His disciples' advice (7-10, 16)
- Jesus informs the disciples that Lazarus is dead (11-15)
- When they arrive, Lazarus has been dead for four days (17-20)
- Jesus tells Martha He will raise Lazarus; Martha believes (21-27)

Lessons for Life (Eternal)

- God is often glorified through hardships and sorrows (4)
- Obedience to God is always the best way to live (9-10)
- The trials of life strengthen our faith the most (15)
- Jesus offers assurance of eternal life to all who believe (25-26)



1. In John 10.4, Jesus says that Lazarus' sickness had a purpose: It was "for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." (See also Jesus' words before healing the man born blind in Jn. 9.3.) Jesus was unique; He knew events before they happened, and what their purpose was. Question: When 'bad things' happen to us, does God have a purpose for every trial? How can God be glorified in the trials we encounter? What event in Jesus' life glorified Him and God the Father the most (John 12.23-28)? Why?
2. The disciples were concerned when Jesus said they were returning to Judea; Bethany was a 'suburb' of Jerusalem, and Jewish leaders there wanted to stone Him (v8; see 10.31)! Jesus' reply in vv. 9-10 refers to 'day' and 'night' and 'light.' These themes are throughout John's Gospel (1.4-5; 8.12; 9.4-5; 12.35-36). Does Jesus' response have more than one meaning? Why did He answer this way?
3. In vv11-13 Jesus says Lazarus is "asleep." The disciples take this literally, but Jesus was using 'sleep' figuratively to mean "dead." Can you think of other places "sleep" means "dead" in the NT?
4. Why was Jesus glad 'for the sake of His disciples' that Lazarus died before He arrived (15)? Do trials build our faith (Js. 1.2-4)? How?
5. Martha's dialogue with Jesus (21-27) reflects the growth of faith in a believer's life. What expression of faith does Martha make in verses 21-22? After Jesus says, "Your brother will rise again," what further expression of faith does she make?
6. In verses 25-26, Jesus makes Himself the focus of faith. He explains what Him being "the resurrection" means at the end of v25. What is He talking about here? When will this happen? Jesus explains what His being "the life" means in v26. What is this referring to?
7. Martha's response in v27 is classic. Jesus asks if she believes what He has said, and she replies that she believes He is the Messiah, the Son of God. Was Martha 'saved'? How do you know?