

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

October 30, 2023

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

I AM

John 11:17-27

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus^[c] had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[d] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

In this particular passage we explore Jesus as the resurrection and the life. At this point in his public ministry, Jesus finds out that his brother in Christ, Lazarus, is sick. Lazarus' sisters, Martha and Mary, send for Jesus, knowing He can help. Surprisingly, Jesus lingers upon learning this, and by the time He arrives, Lazarus has been dead for four days. Martha goes out to meet Him, angry that had He arrived sooner Lazarus might still be alive. **How have you asked God for help or healing, but He appeared late to your request? How is Martha an example, simultaneously expressing frustration and faith?** Given all the fears that plague us, our fear of death could be the greatest of all. We read that before raising Lazarus, Jesus weeps. As painful and exhausting as it is, mourning is necessary and best done in community, as is modeled in verse 19. Matthew tells us, "Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted." Note here that there is no object for mourning; we can insert our own: death, betrayal, suffering, loss. **What are you currently mourning? How can you receive comfort from community?**

Jesus' display of emotion reminds us we grieve because we love. He knows our pain and mourns with us in our suffering. Each of us has been given a number of days to live the life God has intended for us. Jesus is the one who raises the dead - people, dreams, and situations to new life. **How should the resurrection and the life change your circumstances, and how you feel about the present?**

Take time this week to do the important work in remembering - who has shaped and formed you, living and deceased? Who has inspired you, what is worthy of imitation, how did they reflect God's love? What markers of God's presence are you leaving behind on the trail for those who come after you? *Nothing is impossible with God, life triumphs over death, hope over despair. Therefore we can approach death with confident hope and not paralyzing fear.*