



The Resurrection and the Life!

April 4, 2021, Easter Sunday

Text: John 11:17-27

Happy Resurrection Sunday! Jesus is Risen! We proclaim like the angels at the tomb:

Luke 24:6-7 (KJV) *He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, 7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, **and the third day rise again.***

As the songwriters said:

Hallelujah...Jesus is Alive! Death has lost its victory, and the grave has been denied. Jesus lives forever...He's Alive!

*And because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth a living just because He lives!*

Explanation of the Text

1. In this very beloved of Gospel narratives, we find out that our LORD was very close to the family of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, siblings, who all lived in in a town called Bethany.
2. Bethany means “house of dates.” It was a village on the south-eastern slope of the Mount of Olives ([Mar 11:1](#)), about 2 miles east of Jerusalem, on the road to Jericho. It derived its name from the number of palm-trees which grew there.¹
3. John tells the reader that Mary was the one who anointed the feet of Jesus with a costly ointment and wiped them with her hair. (John 12:1-8). He also repeatedly mentions how much our LORD loved this family. (vv3, 5, 36)
4. The point is that this was a relationship filled with love and blessing, and in my opinion, speaks to the walk of intimacy to which Christ calls His children!
5. Well, His dear friend Lazarus was sick. His sisters went and told Jesus as He approached the town.
6. When He heard, Jesus said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.” (v4)
7. Nevertheless, Jesus stayed two more days where He was; Lazarus has been dead 4 days when Jesus arrived at the tomb.
8. Verse 19 is a scene of great mourning. Many came to comfort the sisters because their beloved brother was dead.
9. Hearing that Jesus was coming, Martha hurried to meet Him. In the midst of her grief, she uttered words of faith and belief we’d all to well to emulate:

John 11:21-24 (KJV) *Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. 22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. 23 Jesus saith unto her, **Thy brother shall rise again.** 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.*

¹ Easton's Bible Dictionary

10. Martha's faith was great. She...

- Believed by faith the LORD had the power to save her brother!
- Believed that with Jesus, it is never too late!
- Believed in the resurrection!

11. But her faith, like ours, wasn't perfect and her understanding incomplete:

- She thought Jesus was required to be physically present to heal in this case.
- She believed the LORD as much as she could, but could not yet conceive of a physical resurrection of her brother until the "last day."

12. But Jesus was there, and with Him, all things are possible! He teaches her, and us, important and life-changing lessons:

John 11:25-26 (KJV) *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*

- We learn that Jesus is the Resurrection. That is, He has power over death!

John 5:21 (KJV) *For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*

John 10:17-18 (KJV) *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

- We learn that Jesus is the Life. That is, all life comes through Christ!

John 5:26-27 (KJV) *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*

John 14:6 (KJV) *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

1 John 5:11-12 (KJV) *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

Colossians 1:16-17 (KJV) *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

- We learn that Jesus grants eternal life to those who believe in Him!

John 6:39-40 (KJV) *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

- We learn that Jesus promises to resurrect to those who believe in Him!

John 5:28-29 (KJV) *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

13. Martha believed our LORD!

John 11:27 (KJV) *She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.*

Do you believe Him as well?

The rest of the story is beautiful. Jesus calls her sister Mary and the three of them met outside the town. Others followed. When Jesus saw the weeping and mourning of those who loved Lazarus he was troubled and groaned in His spirit. He wept. They all went to Lazarus' grave. Jesus commanded them to take away the stone. Perhaps Martha doubted a bit at the tomb because it had been four days and there was an odor. Jesus said to her:

John 11:40 (KJV) *Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?*

Jesus prayed to the Father, thanking Him for hearing Him and for the great witness of His words and actions to those looking on. Our LORD does want you to believe!

He command Lazarus, "Come forth." Scripture says:

John 11:44 (KJV) *And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.*

Friends, rejoice over this truth: Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life! He that believeth in (Him), though he were dead, yet shall he live!

Now for Clarity:

Who is Jesus?

John 1:1-3 (KJV) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

John 1:14 (KJV) *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Why did Jesus come?

Matthew 1:21 (KJV) *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Hebrews 9:28 (KJV) *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

How did Jesus do this?

He was born without sin!

1 John 3:5 (KJV) *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

He lived a perfect life!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV) *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

1 Peter 1:19 (KJV) *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

He died on the cross for our sins!

Philippians 2:8 (KJV) *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (KJV) *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

He rose from the dead!

1 Peter 1:21 (KJV) *Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.*

Romans 6:4-5 (KJV) *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

What does all this mean for you?

It means that God loves you, and showed that love through the Resurrected Son. It means that God has provided a way of escape from the wrath to come through the Resurrected Son. It means you can inherit eternal life by grace through faith through the Resurrected Son. It means that you can live “a resurrected life” now of joy and hope through the Resurrected Son!

As Paul wrote:

Titus 2:11-14 (KJV) For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; **14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

What must you do be saved?

Repent

Acts 17:30 (KJV) And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.

Believe the Gospel

Mark 1:15 (KJV) And saying, *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

Romans 10:9-11 (KJV) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **11** For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Then what?

Be baptized!

Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Begin to study Scripture, pray daily, and live for God!

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV) Pray without ceasing.

Preach the Gospel; make disciples!

Mark 16:15 (KJV) And he said unto them, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Attend a Church!

Hebrews 10:25 (KJV) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Remember friends, Jesus promised to return!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (KJV) *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life!

Until our LORD's return, may you all be saved, and live a joyful, hope-filled, Resurrected Life in Jesus our LORD, praying, serving, loving, worshipping, blessing others, and making disciples.

Amen!