

***“The Resurrection & The Life”***  
***John 11:17-27***

**Introduction:**

1. As We Turn Back In Our Bibles:
  - To John 11 This Morning:
    - We Will Find Jesus’ Plan:
      - To Raise Lazarus From The Dead:
        - All Coming Together!
  - Three Times Already:
    - As We Saw Last Week:
      - Jesus Informed His Disciples:
        - Of His Intention & Plan:
          - To Return To Judea:
            - And Invited Them To Go With Him!
  - In 11:7 - He Told Them:
    - “Let’s Go Into Judea Again!”
      - But His Disciples Had Some:
        - Major Reservations About:
          - Returning To The Place Where:
            - Jesus Had Almost Been Stoned!
  - But - Jesus Was Not Deterred!
    - So - In 11:11 - Jesus Said Again:
      - “But I Go!”
        - Yet - His Disciples Still:
          - Were Dragging Their Feet:
            - And Where Looking For Any Reason Not To Go!
  - But - Finally - In 11:15 - Jesus Had His Way:
    - When He Said Again:
      - “Let Us Go Unto Him!”
        - And So Thomas, Leading The Way:
          - Said - “Let Us Also Go, That We May Die With Him!”
2. And So - They All Went Back With Jesus:
  - Which Is Where We Pick Up The Story:
    - In 11:17-20 - “Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already. / 18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off: / 19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. / 20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house!”
      - So - Once Again - Jesus’ Plan:
        - Is Taking Shape!
    - We Find - In 11:17:
      - The Right Period For His Plan:
        - When Lazarus Had Been Already Dead & Buried For Four Days!
          - In Jewish Circles - Burial Always Took Place On The Same Day As One’s Death!
      - And Though We Can’t Be Sure Of:
        - All The Timing Involved:
          - It Is Clear That Jesus Took His Time To Get Where The Body Of Lazarus Was!
      - And - When He Got There:
        - It Was At Just The Right Time:
          - According To His Plan!
        - Later Jewish Writings:
          - Tell Us That They Believed The Soul Of A Person Who Died Hovered Over His/Her Body For 3 Days - And Finally Left On The Fourth!
        - So - At This Point - Even According To Jewish Superstition:
          - There Was No Possibility For Lazarus:
            - To Be Revived!
    - But - We Also Find - In 11:18:
      - The Right Place For Jesus’ Plan!
        - Even In The Village Of Bethany:

- Which Was Just Over 1½ Miles From Jerusalem!
  - For The Disciples:
    - It Was Probably:
      - Too Close For Comfort:
        - To The Place Where Jesus' Life Had Been Threatened!
  - But - For Jesus:
    - It Was Right Where:
      - He Needed To Be!
    - For His Ministry:
      - To A Family He Loved! And:
    - For His Mission:
      - To Offer Redemption To:
        - A World That *Didn't* Love Him!
  - And Then - We Find - In 11:19:
    - The Right People For Jesus Plan!
      - Bringing Everyone Together:
        - That Needed To See & Experience What He Was About To Do!
    - Of Course - Martha & Mary & Lazarus:
      - Would Be There - But:
        - So Would "Many Of The Jews!"
    - Elsewhere In The Gospel Of John:
      - The "Jews" Are Often Put In:
        - A Negative Light!
          - Even As The Adversaries Of Jesus!
    - But Here - They Are Put In A More:
      - Positive Light:
        - Because - They Come To "Comfort" The Two Sisters:
          - In Their Grief!
    - So - This Family Of Siblings:
      - Martha & Mary & Lazarus:
        - Must Have Been Well-Known & Well-Loved:
      - For So Many Of The Jewish People & Even Leaders:
        - To Come & Pay Their Respects!
3. And So - According To The Providence & Plan:
- Of The Lord - Everything Is Starting To Come Together!
    - And So - From In 11:21-27 - Jesus First Meets:
      - With Martha!
  - 11:21-27 - "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. / 25 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? / 27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world!"
    - At This Special Meeting & Conversation:
      - Between Jesus & Martha:
        - We Can See Two Important Things:
          - The Faithfulness Of Jesus! And:
          - The Faith Of Martha!
  - And - I'd Like For Us To:
    - Look At These Two Things This Morning:
      - So That *Your* Faith:
        - Might Be Stirred Up Even More:
          - In The Faithfulness Of Jesus:
            - Just Like Martha's Faith!
  - And So - From His Inspiring Words To Martha:
    - We Can See First:
1. ***The Faithfulness Of Jesus!***
- What A Faithful Savior:

- We Have In The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - And - In Jesus' First Words To Martha:
    - There In 11:23:
      - We Can See His Faithfulness:
- To His Own Promise!
  - Because - "Jesus Saith Unto Her, Thy Brother Shall Rise Again!"
    - Of Course - This Was Jesus' Response To Martha In Her Grief!
      - And It Was Probably A Common Way To Comfort:
        - Those Who Lost A Loved One Back Then!
      - At Least For The Pharisees & Those Who Believed:
        - What The Scripture Said About A Future Resurrection!
    - **IE:** Isn't This Something That:
      - We Even Say:
        - To Comfort & Encourage One Another - When:
          - We Lose Someone Close To Us Who Also Believed In Jesus!
    - But - When Jesus Said This To Martha:
      - It Was Not Just A Platitude!
        - It Was The Truth & A Promise!
        - Even:
  - A Promise Of Hope:
    - To This Special Follower Of His:
      - Who Was Filled With Sorrow & Grief:
        - Over The Loss Of Her Loved One!
    - "Thy Brother Shall Rise Again!" - It Was Also:
  - A Promise Of Honesty!
    - Jesus Was Telling Martha The Truth:
      - Because - He Always Told The Truth!
    - Jesus Had Already Taught:
      - About The Resurrection In:
        - 5:24-25 - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. / Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live!"
    - And So - When Jesus Said To Martha:
      - "Thy Brother Shall Rise Again!"
        - It Was The Truth! It Was Also:
  - A Promise Of Honor!
    - Especially For Lazarus:
      - The One Who Had Died!
        - Because - It Shows That:
          - Not Just His Soul, But His Body Was Precious To Him!
  - And So - What Jesus Will Do:
    - Later In This Chapter:
      - Is The Fulfilment Of & Faithfulness To His Promise:
        - To Martha Here!
  - Jesus Is Always Faithful:
    - To His Promises!
      - But Then - In The Famous Words We Read From 11:25-26:
        - We Can See Jesus' Faithfulness:
  - In His Own Person!
    - Because - There He Tells Martha:
      - "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: / And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die!"
        - And Then He Asks Her:
          - "Believest Thou This?"
    - When Jesus Says In 11:25:
      - "I Am The Resurrection And The Life!"
        - Once Again - He Uses The Words:

- "I Am" - To Point To His Identity As The Great "I Am" Who Met With Moses In The Burning Bush!
- And By Using These Words:
  - Everything That Is Joined To Them:
    - Makes Up Part Of Jesus' Own Glory!
  - And - Everything That Jesus Says About Himself:
    - Is True In The Fullest Way Possible!
  - Because - All *That* Jesus Is:
    - Is *As* Jesus Is!
- And So - Here - Jesus Adds To:
  - His - "I Am" - His Characteristics Of:
    - "Resurrection" & "Life!"
  - Now - When He Says This To Martha:
    - He Is Not Just Saying That:
      - He Is The *Source*:
        - Of The Resurrection & Life!
        - Though He Is!
    - But - He Is Saying More!
      - He Is The Very *Substance & Essence*:
        - Of Resurrection & Life!
    - Which Means That:
      - All That Resurrection Is - And Means:
        - Jesus Is! And:
      - All That Life Is - And Means:
        - Jesus Is!
    - So - To See & To Know & To Experience:
      - Resurrection & Life:
        - Just Look To Jesus!
- And So - To Comfort Martha's Sorrow:
  - Jesus Reminds Her Of:
    - His Personal Power Of Life:
      - Even Over Death!
  - "I Am The Resurrection!"
    - Jesus Says! And:
      - He Explains What He Means Later:
        - In 11:25 - "He That Believeth In Me, Though He Were Dead, Yet Shall He Live!"
  - This Is Resurrection!
    - The Giving Of Life:
      - To Someone That's Dead!
    - And - All That Resurrection Is & Means:
      - *That Is Jesus!*
      - And - What Is Resurrection?
  - Resurrection Is:
    - A Healing Thing!
      - Because It Brings Healing:
        - From Death Itself!
    - And - This Is Jesus!
      - Our Great Healer!
  - Resurrection Is Also:
    - A Hopeful Thing!
      - Because It Shows That:
        - There Is More Than Death:
          - After Death!
      - And - This Too Is Jesus!
        - Our Great Hope!
  - Resurrection Is Also:
    - A Heavenly Thing!
      - Because It Causes The Dead:

- To Stand Up Again!
  - What “Resurrection” / “Anastasis” Literally Means!
- So - No Longer Bound To Earth:
  - But Bound For Heaven!
- And - This Is Jesus Too!
  - Heaven Itself:
    - Come Down To Earth!
- Resurrection Is Also:
  - An Honorable Thing!
    - Because It Reunites:
      - The Body & Soul Of The Dead:
        - To Restore Man To God’s Original Creation!
    - Job 19:26 - “And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God!”
  - And - This Is Jesus!
    - The Most Honorable One:
      - Who Honors Us - Even As Sinners - With His Presence!
- All That Resurrection Is:
  - Jesus Is - Because:
    - He Is The One Who Makes:
      - Resurrection What It Is!
  - “I Am The Resurrection!”
    - Jesus Says - To Which He Adds:
      - “Believest Thou This?”
- The Day Of Your Hope:
  - Is Not Just About Some Resurrection:
    - In The Future!
  - The Day Of Your Hope Comes:
    - When You Look To & Believe In The Faithfulness Of Jesus As:
      - “The Resurrection!”
  - Because - When You Believe In Christ:
    - “Death . . . Is But The Gateway To Further Life And Fellowship With God!” (Leon Morris)
- But Then - To Comfort Martha’s Own Soul:
  - Jesus Reminds Her Of:
    - His Personal Provision Of Life!
  - “I Am The Life!”
    - Jesus Says! And:
      - He Further Explains What He Means:
        - In 11:26 - “And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die!”
  - This Is Life!
    - The Giving Of Life:
      - That Has No End!
    - And - All That Life Is & Means:
      - *That Is Jesus!*
      - And - What Is Life?
- Life Involves:
  - An Awareness Of Things!
    - Because - To Live Means:
      - You Are Able To Think With Your Mind! (“Brain Dead”)
  - But - Jesus Is Life:
    - Because His Awareness Of Things:
      - Is Perfect & Complete!
      - He Is Omniscient!
    - Already Proven In This Chapter!
      - “Lazarus Is Dead!”
- Life Also Involves:
  - An Ability To Do Things!
    - Because - To Live Means:

- You Are Able To Move & Act!
  - Yet - Jesus Is Life:
    - Because His Ability To Do Things:
      - Is Also Perfect & Complete!
      - He Is Omnipotent!
    - Which Will Be Further Proven:
      - In This Chapter!
  - Life Also Involves:
    - Age & Growth!
      - Because - To Live Means:
        - You Develop Over Time!
    - Yet - Jesus Is Life:
      - Because His Age:
        - Is Infinite & Eternal!
        - With No Beginning & No End!
  - All That Life Is:
    - Jesus Is - And More - Because:
      - He Is The One Who Makes:
        - Life What It Is!
    - “I Am The Resurrection & The Life!”
      - Jesus Says - To Which He Adds Again:
        - “Believest Thou This?”
  - So - You Don’t Need To Look For:
    - Another Time In The Future:
      - To Experience The Fulness Of Life!
    - You Need To:
      - Look To & Believe In Jesus!
    - Because - Without Him:
      - There Is No Life!
  - Do You Believe This?
    - If So - Jesus Is Calling You:
      - To An Even Deeper & More Abiding Faith:
        - In Him & His Faithfulness!
    - His Faithfulness:
      - To His Own Promise & In His Own Person!
        - Because - He Is Still Faithful!
      - He Is Still Able To Bring:
        - What Is Dead In You:
          - To Life!
    - Remember - Jesus Is:
      - The Resurrection & The Life!
        - And - It Was Jesus’ Faithfulness:
          - That Inspired:
- 2. *The Faith Of Martha!***
- Who - All Too Often - Gets Overlooked:
    - As A Woman Of Faith:
      - Because Of What We Are Told About Her:
        - In Luke’s Gospel - When She Was:
          - “Cumbered About Much Serving!”
      - All While Her Sister, Mary:
        - “Sat At Jesus’ Feet, And Heard His Word!”
    - And - Even Though:
      - Jesus Told Martha Then:
        - In Luke 10 - That “Mary Hath Chosen That Good Part!”
          - Yet - Here - In John 11:
            - It Is Martha Who Goes To Jesus To Hear His Word First!
    - And - She Did So:
      - Because She *Did* Believe!

- And - We Can Learn Much:
  - From The Faith Of Martha!
  - Even From 11:21-22:
- The Closeness Of Faith!
  - When Martha Came Met Jesus:
    - We Are Told That:
      - 11:21 - “Then Said Martha Unto Jesus!”
  - Martha Spoke With Jesus:
    - With Great Feeling & Freedom:
      - Because She Knew That:
        - Jesus Was Her Friend - Even As:
          - He Was Her Brother’s Friend!
  - And So - She Knew That She Could:
    - Come To & Commune With Jesus:
      - As “Friend With Friend!”
    - This Is The Kind Of Closeness:
      - You Can Have With Jesus:
        - Through Faith!
  - And - It Is All Because Of:
    - The Faithfulness Of Jesus:
      - That You Can Now Have This Kind Of:
        - Close, Personal Faith In Jesus!
    - We Can Also See:
- The Consideration Of Faith!
  - Even Though Martha Came To Jesus:
    - As Her Friend - She Still Knew That:
      - He Was Her ‘Lord!’”
  - And So - She Addressed Him:
    - In 11:21 - In That Way!
      - She Spoke With Reverence:
        - Because She Had Great Consideration Of His Position Over Her & His Plans For Her!
  - The Faithfulness Of Jesus:
    - Is Great - Because:
      - He Is Great! And He Deserves:
        - This Kind Of Reverent Faith:
          - From Our Hearts!
    - We Can Also See:
- The Craving Of Faith!
  - True Faith In Jesus - As:
    - “The Resurrection & The Life” - Will Involve:
      - A Desire For His Presence!
  - And - So It Was For Martha!
    - As She Said To The Lord:
      - In 11:21 - “If Thou Hadst Been Here!”
  - This Was Not A Complaint:
    - To Jesus - But A Simple Expression:
      - Of What She Had Craved:
        - All Those Days That:
          - Her Brother Had Been Sick!
    - “If Only Jesus Were Here!”
      - The Sisters Probably Said To Each Other:
        - Over & Over Again!
  - Faith In Jesus Will Always:
    - Long For A Deeper Understanding Of:
      - The Faithful Presence Of Jesus!
    - That He Might Make His:
      - Presence With You:
        - More Evident & Known!

- Is This Your Desire?

- We Can Also See:
- The Conviction Of Faith!
  - Even The Conviction About:
    - The Power Of Jesus!
  - Martha Had No Doubt That:
    - If Jesus Had Been There - In Bethany:
      - 11:21 - "My Brother Had Not Died!"
  - This Was A Deep Expression:
    - Of Mary's Faith In:
      - Both The Affection Of Jesus:
        - For Her Brother! And:
      - The Ability Of Jesus:
        - To Heal Her Brother!
  - Of Course - All Of Martha's Words:
    - At This Point Were Wistful!
      - Because - After All:
        - Jesus Was Not There - And:
          - Her Brother Did Die!
  - So - Now What?
    - All Too Often:
      - The "Could Have Been's" In Our Lives:
        - Often Lead To:
          - The End Of Faith & Prayer!
    - But - That's Not The Case Here!
      - Because - Martha's Words & Prayer:
        - To Jesus Continued!
      - It Did Not End With:
        - The "Could Have Been!"
          - Instead - It Reached Forward To Reveal:
- The Confidence Of Faith!
  - In 11:22 - "But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee!"
    - In Spite Of The Death Of Her Brother:
      - Martha Had Great Confidence:
        - In The Lord!
    - Confidence In What Jesus:
      - Could Do *Still* - Not Just In What:
        - He *Could Have Done!*
    - Confidence In What Jesus:
      - Would Do *Now* - Not In What:
        - He *Would Have Done!*
  - You Have To Wonder:
    - What Did Martha Know:
      - When She Said These Words?
    - Did The One Who Delivered:
      - The Sisters' Message To Jesus:
        - Return With His Message:
          - To Them?
    - Remember What Jesus Said:
      - To His Disciples In 11:4?
        - "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby!"
  - Perhaps Martha Heard This!
    - And - Her Faith & Confidence In Jesus:
      - Grew Even Stronger!
  - This Is The Kind Of Faith:
    - That We Can Have In:
      - The Faithfulness Of Jesus:
        - As The Resurrection & The Life!



- A Strong, Confident Faith:
  - That Whatever Jesus Promises:
    - He Is “Able Also To Perform!”
- But - We Can Also See:
  - From Martha’s Response To Jesus:
    - In 11:27:
- The Confirmation Of Faith!
  - Because - When Jesus Asked Her:
    - “Believest Thou This?”
      - 11:27 - “She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world!”
  - There Are So Many Affirmations:
    - About Jesus That:
      - Are Confirmed By Mary:
        - In This Confession!
    - She Confirmed Her Faith:
      - In Jesus As “The Resurrection & The Life!”
        - When She Said:
          - “Yea, Lord!”
      - She *Did* Believe:
        - In What & In Who:
          - He Said He Was!
        - And - In All:
          - That He Was!
      - Even The Very “Christ, The Son Of God, Which Should Come Into The World!”
  - And - The Faithfulness Of Jesus:
    - Was The Firm Foundation For:
      - The Martha’s Faith!

**Conclusion:**

1. And - It Can Be The Same For You!
  - Listen To Jesus’ Lingering Question:
    - In Your Own Heart!
      - “Believest Thou This?”
  - Do You Believe That:
    - Jesus Is The Resurrection & The Life?
      - Not Just For The World!
        - But For You?
      - Not Just For The Future:
        - But For Now?
2. Let His Faithfulness:
  - Stir Up Your Faith:
    - So That You Can Live Today:
      - More & More The Way Paul Did:
        - In Philippians 3:10 - With The Earnest Desire:
          - “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection!”
    - Because - Jesus Is:
      - The Resurrection & The Life!
        - Is He Now Yours?

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