

“The Resurrection and The Life”

John 11:17-27

Central Idea: All who trust in the person of Jesus Christ for salvation have life and security in Him.

Background:

- Beginning of Jesus’ final trip to Jerusalem
- Jesus left Judea because some wanted to kill Him
- Returns to Judea because Lazarus has died

I. The Setting of the Conversation (17-20)

- Time: Four days after Lazarus’ death
- Place: Outside the village of Bethany, near Jerusalem

II. Martha’s Conversation with Jesus (21-27)

- Martha’s Initial Greeting (21-22)
 - Three main understandings of Martha’s statement (21):
 - A slight rebuke of Jesus
 - A sincere expression of faith in Jesus
 - An expression of regret, without blaming Jesus
 - Most likely a statement of faith that also expresses regret
 - Doesn’t seem to be blaming Jesus for what happened
- Martha is not thinking of an immediate resurrection (22)
 - Leaves the door open for the miraculous
 - But does not presume upon the Lord
 - Has personal confidence in Jesus & strong faith in God
 - Neither has been shaken by Lazarus’ death
- Jesus’ First Statement & Martha’s Response (23-24)

- Comforts Martha with His statement (23)
 - Points her to the doctrine of the resurrection
- Martha affirms her belief in this doctrine (24)
 - Understands Lazarus will rise again
 - Does not expect it to happen that day
- Jesus’ “I Am” Statement & Martha’s Response (25-27)
 - Jesus both is and provides resurrection and life (25-26)
 - Death is the gateway to the presence of the Lord for the believer (Php 1:21)
 - Jesus will personally bring about these things
 - Points Martha to the one who does the resurrecting
 - He is the essential piece of resurrection and eternal life
 - “Lives and Believes” = “believes while one lives”
 - No believer will ever experience spiritual death
 - Jesus promises not only salvation, but also security
 - Jesus asks about Martha’s belief in Him
- Martha has fully believed in Jesus, and still does (27)
 - Affirms Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who was promised in the Old Testament
 - Not a political revolutionary, but one who saves His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21)
 - Fully trusts Jesus to fulfill His promises
 - Example of the purpose of John’s Gospel (20:31)

Application:

- It is not doctrine that saves us it is a Person
- Through faith in Jesus we gain life