

Jesus Said It I Am the Resurrection and the Life

John 11:17-44

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

INTRODUCTION: WHEN LOVE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE LOVE

“Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So... when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer...” (John 11:5–6)

- Because He loved them... He stayed.
- Because He loved them... He let Lazarus die.
- That doesn't look like love to us.

But Jesus explains it in verse 4:

“This illness... is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

Big Idea

- Jesus does not mainly love us by sparing us suffering—
- He loves us by revealing His glory and giving us Himself.

John 1:14–16 says we **behold His glory... and from His fullness receive grace.**

- Grace flows from seeing Jesus.
- So today, in Bethany, we are about to see:
 - The glory of Jesus
 - The love of Jesus
 - The power of Jesus

And they are all the same thing.

I. Jesus loves us by revealing himself.

John 11:17-27

B. The Delay Was Love (vv. 17–20)

1. Jesus arrives after four days—final, irreversible death
2. This was intentional—not accidental
3. Greater glory required deeper impossibility

C. Questioning His Love (vv. 21–22)

1. Martha: “Lord, if You had been here...”
2. Faith mixed with disappointment

3. Love misunderstood because timing didn't match expectations

D. Profound Truth: Jesus Reveals Himself (vv. 23–27)

1. "Your brother will rise again"
2. Martha points to the future
3. Jesus brings resurrection into the present

E. "I am the resurrection and the life."

1. Jesus is not just giving resurrection—He IS resurrection
2. He is the arrival of the final day into the present moment
3. Two promises:
 - a. "Though he die, yet shall he live" for Lazarus
 - b. "Whoever lives and believes... shall never die" for Martha

Application

- Physical death cannot defeat you
- Spiritual life begins now and never ends

John 5:24

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

Revelation 1:18

I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

F. The Love of God Defined

1. John 3:16 – God gave His Son
2. John 17:3 – Eternal life = knowing God
Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

God's love to us is the gift of Himself

Key Truth

Jesus loves you most by showing you Himself.

Illustration

- A child may think love is getting everything they want.
- But a father knows the greatest gift is not things—it's himself.

Application

- Stop measuring God's love by comfort
- Measure His love by how much of Himself He reveals
- Some of your hardest seasons are actually holy invitations

II. Jesus responds to our doubt with truth and emotion

John 11:28-37

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³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

A. Jesus' motives and power were all questioned.

1. Martha (v. 21) – "If You had been here..."
2. Mary (v. 32) – Same ^^^^
3. Crowd (v. 37) – "Could He not have stopped this?"

Three voices, one question

- "Jesus, do You really love us?"
- If you love us why didn't you stop this?

B. Jesus responds with strong emotion

John 11:33-38

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, **he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.** ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³⁵ **Jesus wept.**

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Jesus, **once more deeply moved**, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

1. 33 - “Deeply moved in spirit and troubled
2. 35 - “Jesus wept”
3. 38 – “once more deeply moved”

Question - _Why Was Jesus Troubled?

1. The first word (*deeply moved*) is used again in verse 38 and three times outside this Gospel.
 - It is never a word of compassion but a word of rebuke or warning.
2. And the other word (*greatly troubled*) signifies being shaken or agitated.

It’s the same word for the waters in the pool of Bethesda being stirred up John 5:7
And it’s the word Jesus will use in John 14:1

 - “Let not your hearts be *troubled*.”
3. It’s not positive emotion. Jesus was shaken, and he was upset and disturbed.
 - C. It doesn’t seem to me these are emotions of empathy and tenderness.
 1. I think Jesus is disturbed at the way his motives are being questioned.
 2. With emotional forcefulness, Mary had said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died” (verse 32).
 3. Something about this was deeply disturbing to Jesus.
 4. And when he wept (verse 35)
I suspect his emotions were very deep and very complex, not simple.
 - D. This strong emotion is going to rise again in Jesus.
 1. It happens again in response to the third instance of people questioning his motives and power.
 2. In verse 37 some looked at his weeping and said, “could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”
 3. Surely he could have.
 4. And he didn’t.
 5. So they question and they are suspicious of his motives or his power.

Jesus is NOT...

- Surprised by death—He planned this moment

Jesus is...

- Disturbed by unbelief and suspicion
- Troubled that His love was being questioned

His emotions reveal His glory

- He is not distant
- He is not cold
- He is fully engaged

Illustration

A husband who deeply loves his wife is not indifferent when she doubts his love—it moves him deeply.

Application

- Jesus can handle your questions—but don't stay there
- Unbelief blinds you from seeing His glory
- Even His correction is love—because it leads you to truth

III. Jesus reveals himself through action.**John 11:38-40**

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

A. Unpack text

1. Take away the stone
2. Martha – resists – by this time there is a bad odor – it's been 4 days.
3. Jesus' response – Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?
4. Martha...
 - a. I want you to trust me.
 - b. I want you to believe in me, that I love you and I am who you say I am.
 - c. I want to reveal my glory to you right now – in a POWERFUL WAY!

B. Jesus prays

John 11:41-42

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

1. His prayer is public
2. He reveals his oneness with the Father
3. He builds the faith of the crowd.

John 11:43-44a

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

- C. This is a declaration of authority
 1. Lazarus - Come out!!
 2. Specific – powerful – personal call
 3. Death obeys immediately
 4. Death immediately releases its hold.

Jesus raises the dead because He IS the resurrection.

John 11:44b

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Unpack

- Loose Him and Let Him Go
- Resurrection is instant
- Freedom is a process
- The church participates in unbinding

Illustration

- A man rescued from drowning is alive—but still needs help recovering.

Application

1. Remove the stone—obedience unlocks miracles
2. Respond to His voice—He calls dead things to life
3. Help others get free—this is the church’s role

