

## “Jesus: The Resurrection and the Life”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

### SCRIPTURE

John 11:18-27 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup> “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

**Subject Question:** What three truths does Jesus teach to us concerning the subject of the Resurrection?

**Compliment answer:** There is a Resurrection Problem; There is a Resurrection Possibility, and There is a Resurrection Promise.

**Big Idea:** The Three truths that Jesus teaches us concerning the resurrection are: There is a Resurrection Problem; There is a Resurrection Possibility, and there is a Resurrection Promise.

**Homiletical Idea:** “God is Lifting”

**Purpose:** I want the congregation to explore Jesus understanding of His role as our personal Good shepherd.

**Introduction:** This is the ninth in a series that we will be exploring concerning the passage in John’s gospel where Jesus states, *I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in me and I in them, He it is who bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* We will be looking at what it means to be “abide-ers” in this series. Today’s lesson comes to us late in the Lenten season as Jesus now is on His way to Jerusalem to be handed over to the Sadducees

and Pharisees to be tried, convicted, and crucified. The raising of Lazarus from the grave serves really a double purpose. First, Jesus, in His *divinity*, wanted people to see with their own eyes that he had and has the ultimate power over death---strengthening our faith. And second, however, Jesus, in His *humanity*, needed to see that it could be done---Thus, strengthening His own faith for the trials that were to shortly take place. The resurrection of Lazarus was evidently for us and Him, not to mention Lazarus! In the verses today we discover three truths that Jesus wants us to know concerning the topic of being raised from the dead.

(Do you have the assurance of your own resurrection?)

- A. There is a Resurrection Problem (vs.18-20) <sup>18</sup> *Now Bethany was less than two miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem,* <sup>19</sup> *and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.* <sup>20</sup> *When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.*
- B. Is there life after death? Of all the teaching that Jesus did on this subject, this is still the area that most people have difficulty understanding and more having some kind of an assurance about. Death seems so predetermined! Death seems so final! Yet consider Jesus' words:
1. John 14: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God<sup>[a]</sup>; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going."*
  2. John 6: <sup>38</sup> *For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."*
  3. John 17: *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*
  4. John 3: <sup>13</sup> *No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."<sup>[g]</sup> <sup>16</sup> *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**

C. How do people react to the claims of Christ? Some like Martha—run to Jesus. Some like Mary—stay at home—somewhat lost and insecure in their own ideas and philosophies concerning death and life after death. Tragically, many Christians are in the same boat! John understood the apprehension when he penned the words:

1. 1 John 5: *Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.<sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life...*

D. Many folks simply dismiss the thought and leave it all till their time comes. So, what is the problem? Very simply. One cannot live, truly live, truly passionately and intellectually in faith, until one has settled this issue in their life. It's the difference between living a productive risk-taking life for Christ or simply sitting—like Mary, content to not move one way or the other, with the faith needed to make a difference in the life of others.

(Do you have the assurance of your own resurrection?)

- A. There is a Resurrection Possibility (vs.21-24) <sup>21</sup>“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>22</sup>But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup>Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”
- B. The question that Mary has really hits home in the life of many sincere Christians. We have the faith to believe that there is a resurrection, but where do we go and when? Do we simply soul-sleep until Jesus returns and then are there to meet him in the clouds? Do we have to spend time in purgatory atoning for some forgotten sins?
- C. In other words, we don't have a resurrection problem as much as we have questions regarding the myriad of possibilities. Yet, consider Barnes notes on the subject:
  1. (Paul) And willing rather to be absent from the body - We would prefer to die. The same idea occurs in Philippians 1:23. "Having a desire to depart and to be with Christ; which is far better." The sense is, that Paul would have preferred to die, and to go to heaven; rather than to remain in a world of sin and trial. To be present with the Lord - The Lord Jesus; see the note on Acts 1:24; compare Philippians 1:23. The idea of Paul is, that the Lord Jesus would constitute the main glory of heaven, and that to be with him was equivalent to being in a place of perfect

bliss. He had no idea of any heaven where the Lord Jesus was not; and to be with him was to be in heaven. That world where the Redeemer is, is heaven. This also proves that the spirits of the saints, when they depart, are with the Redeemer; that is, are at once taken to heaven. It demonstrates:

(1) That they are not annihilated.

(2) that they do not sleep, and remain in an unconscious state, as Dr. Priestley supposes.

(3) that they are not in some intermediate state, either in a state of purgatory, as the Papists suppose, or a state where all the souls of the just and the unjust are assembled in a common abode, as many Protestants have supposed; but,

(4) That they dwell with Christ; they are with the Lord (πρὸς τὸν Κυρίον). They abide in his presence; they partake of his joy and his glory; they are permitted to sit with him in his throne; Revelation 3:21.

1. The same idea the Savior expressed to the dying thief, when he said, "today shalt thou be with me in paradise;" Luke 23:43.

D. If we are to settle on one possibility in which to answer our questions concerning where do we go and when, let us cozy up to the foot of the cross and hear the words of Jesus, TODAY, TODAY, TODAY...

(Do you have the assurance of your own resurrection?)

- A. There is a Resurrection Promise (vs.25-27) <sup>25</sup> *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup>and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*<sup>27</sup> *"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*
- B. The resurrection promise of Jesus here is simply that our last breath on Earth will indeed be our first breath in heaven.
- C. The resurrection assurance however is found in Martha's answer to Jesus question: *Do you believe this?"* Notice her answer has nothing to do with a resurrection problem or possibility of even the words of Jesus concerning her brothers fate... Listen again... *"I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*
- D. And so I ask you one last time: Do you have the assurance of your own resurrection? Rather, would you like the assurance of your own resurrection? Let's pray.