

## I Am the Resurrection

John 11:1-7 (NRSV)

Now a certain man was ill, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was ill. 3. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus saying, Lord, he whom you love is ill. 4. But when Jesus heard it, He said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5. Accordingly, Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. 6. After having heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was. 7. Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

*Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Big Bethel Nation. Let's turn to The Gospel (John 11:1-7) as we lift up the Name of the Lord. The sermon topic is "I am the Resurrection."*

*Good morning beloved. Jesus is the Resurrection. In preparation for this message, I took the liberty of looking up the term resurrection in the dictionary. It means a rising again; chiefly, the revival of the dead of the human race, or their return from the grave, particularly at the general judgment. By the resurrection of Christ, we have assurance of the future resurrection of men. (1Peter 1.) Now we know that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*

*In this pericope or unit of scripture, Jesus is sharing that Lazarus of Bethany was sick; even unto death. Mary, who had anointed Jesus with perfume and took time to wipe the master's feet with her hair, was the sister of Lazarus. Mary and Martha sent word or a message to Jesus to convey their concern of the sickness that Lazarus embodied. "Lord, he (Lazarus) whom you love is ill." According to the scripture, when Jesus heard this he said "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, but after having heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was. Afterwards, Jesus said to the disciples "Let us go to Judea again."*

I can only imagine how the disciples began to look as they remembered how the Jews were trying to stone him. Then Jesus spoke to them in this manner. Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." Then Jesus said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him up. The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be fine. Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but the disciples thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For

your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

I simply want to paint a picture here. Three quick truths...

- Jesus was in Jerusalem, which was about 2 miles from Bethany. The average person can walk 1 mile every 15 minutes or run 1 mile in about 8 minutes; 6 minutes if they are moving pretty fast.
- Once Lazarus died. The custom of the Jews was to be in mourning seven days. This is known as 'Sitting Shiva'. Please understand that the community was already in mourning with Lazarus' family, because of his death.
- The funeral had already taken place and Lazarus was already laid in the tomb.

What does the scripture say? Well, I'm so glad you asked. Around about verse 17 the word teaches us that when Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Before Jesus got there, others saw him coming and the news of his presence reached Martha. She couldn't wait any longer, so she went to meet Jesus, while Mary stayed home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Good God Almighty. Talk about Faith in the Lord. Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said Jesus, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

If you would allow me to utilize my theological imagination, I believe Jesus said to her, Martha, do you really know who I am? Jesus is asking the same question to a lost world today, "My brother and my sister, do you know who I am?" To the church goers and to the ones that just won't come to church. "Do you know who I am?" You may have heard about Me, but do you really know Me? To the saint and to the sinner, "Do you know who I am?" If the truth be told the Lord's being can be complicated but he simplifies it for us. If you're in a storm. He'll be your peace. If you're sick, He'll be your balm in Gilead. If you need a friend, He'll be your friend that sticketh closer than a brother. If you're hungry, He'll be your bread. If you're thirsty, He'll be your water flowing into everlasting life. If you're downtrodden, He'll be your burden bearer. If your foundation is shaky, He'll be your rock in a weary land. I heard He'll be more for you than the whole world against you. So, Jesus tells Mary, you, me, and the waiting thrones. **"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.** Do you believe this?" She said to Jesus, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world. The question to you beloved is do you believe in Jesus? I say "Yes Lord." My soul says Yes. Completely Yes; my soul says "YES." Closing Prayer: *Lord I stand on your Holy Word and*

*according to Romans 10:9. I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. I believe this and I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. If you prayed that prayer according to our faith, beloved your name is written in the Lamb's book of life. (God Bless You and Heaven Smile Upon You. Welcome to the Body of Christ.) Hallelujah, Amen.*