

“I am the Resurrection and the Life”

John 11:1-44

Definition: Resurrection ... “Restoring life to what is dead.” You can resurrect:

- the shine on a car.
- a broken relationship, marriage, or friendship.
- a character marred by indiscretion.
- an old fashion or style from the past.

But, what about life itself? Can the dead live again? According to Jesus, “yes!”

1. Resurrection happens in the context of relationships.

¹ A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha.

2. Resurrection brings God glory.

⁴ But when Jesus heard about it he said, “Lazarus’s sickness will not *end* in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.”

3. Resurrection looks beyond unfavorable circumstances.

⁷ Finally, he said to his disciples, “Let’s go back to Judea.”

⁸ But his disciples objected. “Rabbi,” they said, “only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?”

4. Resurrection is the antidote to disappointment.

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

5. Resurrection requires a resurrect-er: Jesus!

²³ Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ “Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

6. Resurrection confirms Jesus' identity.

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God." ²⁸ Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, "The Teacher is here and wants to see you." ²⁹ So Mary immediately went to him.

7. Resurrection is an act of love.

³⁵ Then Jesus wept.

³⁶ The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!"

8. Resurrection is the ultimate healing.

³⁷ But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

9. Resurrection discounts medicine and science.

³⁹ "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

⁴⁰ Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?"

⁴¹ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me."

10. Resurrection is real freedom.

⁴³ Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

⁴⁴ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, we confess You are the 'Resurrection and the Life.' We ask You to liberate us from anything that is preventing us from enjoying the Real Life you want for our lives. Oh Lord, we believe. Amen."