

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE – JOHN 11

THE I AM'S OF JESUS #6

Today we will examine Jesus' claim of "I AM the Resurrection and the Life". This statement comes during Jesus' miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. We will see that this miracle not only provided Jesus a platform for this statement but it also would be used to bring Him glory as result. We begin with:

1. **Lazarus dies – John 11:1-7** -. Several things stand out in these verses. The first of which is why the miracle would take place – vs. 4 – “for the glory of God”. Jesus didn't do miracles to impress or wow people; He did them so that He could show His power and that He as God might receive the glory. We also see that Jesus waited two days after hearing about the sickness of Lazarus. Some people suggest that Jesus waited for Lazarus to die. It is quite likely that Lazarus died shortly after this conversation; of course Jesus would have known that. Many Jews believed that the soul lingered for 3 days after death. The timeline suggests that Jesus waited 4 days to make the miracle undeniable. If Lazarus dies that day and Jesus waited two days with a travel time of one day that would give us 4 days when Jesus arrived in Bethany.
2. **The disciples get confused – vs. 11-15** -. Jesus begins laying the groundwork for this miracle and His statement by likening death to sleep. This would show the power that Jesus has over the grave. The disciples though get confused. When Jesus mentioned sleep, the disciples thought that everything was fine and that Lazarus was only taking a nap. Jesus responds with a short but to the point answer – “Lazarus is dead”. It is from this response that we see Jesus' knowledge of the situation – vs. 17 -. Jesus already knew without being told that Lazarus was dead. Jesus intended the whole time to raise him from the dead.
3. **Martha displays partial belief – vs. 17-22** -. We see in verse 21 that Martha tells Jesus that had He had been there earlier, Lazarus could have been healed. That was true. It quite likely was that Jesus couldn't have made it there on time. While she believes that Jesus could have healed Lazarus, she doesn't consider that Jesus could raise him. This lack of belief doesn't take into consideration Jesus' previous resurrections – the son of the widow of Nain in Luke 7 and Jairus' daughter in Matt. 9. Those resurrections had occurred on the same day of death. This was different only in the length of days dead and the false view of a lingering spirit in the body.

4. **I AM the Resurrection and the Life – vs. 22-27.** In the upcoming verses, Jesus reveals to Martha the full extent of His power. We will see that Martha will put out there the possibility of God raising Lazarus. In response to that, Jesus will make this wonderful statement and give us some wonderful instruction into what it ultimately means – vs. 22-27 -.

5. **Jesus backs up the statement – vs. 34-45.** In our closing text, we will see that Jesus backs up His statement with action. It is one thing to say that you are the source of resurrection and life but it is a whole different thing to prove it. It is here that Jesus once again proves His Deity. We will also see that in the midst of performing this miracle, that Martha is still not convinced that Jesus can do it – vs. 34-45 -.