

Lenten Devotional 2019 – Day 28

Today, I would like to look at the fifth “I AM” statement of Jesus recorded in John’s gospel. In John chapter 11, Jesus declares, “I am the Resurrection and the Life,” then proves it by raising Lazarus from the dead!

Lazarus is one of the most important characters in the gospel of John, yet interestingly we have no record of him saying anything. My conjecture is that he had two sisters and the poor fellow never had the opportunity to speak. Notice, however, that these were wise sisters. As soon as the cloud of sorrow, sickness and darkness came over their home, they immediately knew that the best thing to do was to take it to Jesus. Sadly, before Jesus arrived, Lazarus died and now His disciples would be able to witness their Master go face to face with our greatest enemy: death.

Upon Jesus’ arrival, Lazarus had already been in the grave for four days. In everyone’s mind, Jesus was too late and this was now an utterly hopeless situation. Martha, Lazarus’s grieving sister said in John 11:21, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

What is Martha saying here? Lord, you’re too late.

In verse 25- 26, Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

These words are unprecedented and unparalleled. Here Jesus is claiming that He alone has the last word over death. Jesus approached the tomb, asked that the stone be rolled away, then called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43)

I’ve heard preachers say (and I agree) that the reason Jesus specified Lazarus was because if He had simply said, “Come out” – all the dead people around there would have come up!

I love the next five words found in verse 44 ...The dead man came out!

What does it mean that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life?

1) It means that without Christ we are all equally dead.

Jesus did not come to make good people better. He came to make dead people alive.

2) It means that if we are in Christ we are all equally and eternally alive.

Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 ...

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

3) Even though death is still an enemy, it is a defeated enemy. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can know that death has totally lost its power to ultimately harm and to terrify us.

4) Following Jesus' voice will lead you out of death and out of the grave.

Jesus made a promise to His followers found in John 14:19, "...Because I live, you also will live." The question is "Do you believe this?"

TODAY'S PRAYER

Dear Holy Father, thank you that we follow and serve the conqueror of death! We pray that your resurrection power and hope will be demonstrated in our lives! Thank you that through Jesus Christ we can find forgiveness, new life, hope and an eternal home in heaven!

In Jesus' name, Amen