



“I AM the Resurrection and the Life”
John 11:25

Introduction:

Series: The Great I AM

- Portrait #1: “I AM the bread of life.” (John 6: 35)
- Portrait #2: “I AM the light of the world.” (John 8: 12)
- Portrait #3: “I AM the door.” (John 10:9)
- Portrait #4: “I AM the good shepherd.” (John 10:11)

Today:

- Portrait #5: “I AM the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25)

Background to John 11

John 11:17-19 So when Jesus came, He found that he (Lazarus) had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.

I. The Reaction of Martha (John 11:20-28)

John 11:20 “Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house.”

John 11:21 Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

John 11:22 “Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

John 11:23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

John 11:24 Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

John 11:25-26 “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.”

As opposed to the ancient philosophers:

“Hopes are among the living; the dead are without hope” (Theocritus)

“Suns may set and rise again but we, when once our brief light goes down, must sleep an endless night.” (Catallus)

“No one awakes and arises who has once been overtaken by the chilling end of life.” (Lucretius)

“After death there is no revival. After the grave no meeting of those who have loved each other on earth.” (Ancient Tombstone)

John 11:26 “Do you believe this?”

John 11:27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.”

“Thou art the Christ the Son of the Living God.” (Matthew 16:16)

John 11:28 When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”

II. The Reaction of Mary (John 11:29-32)

John 11:29-32 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and was coming to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Psalm 56:8 "Put my tears in Your bottle." — Tear Bottles = Unguentaria/ Lachrymatory Bottles

III. The Reaction of Jesus (John 11:33-35)

John 11:33-35 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept.

- Some say He cried because Mary was crying.
- Some say He cried because his friend was dead.
- Others say He cried because of the hopelessness of the Jews who were mourning.
- He cried in anger over the condition of sinful humanity and the death that resulted.

John 11:33 Jesus was also 'deeply moved in spirit' — i.e. He 'groaned in spirit' = He was angry (i.e. over death)

To Jesus death was a war He came to fight and that would cost His life in order to win. By going to the cross and raising from the dead He made it possible that we might not experience its sting. Jesus conquered death once and for all time!

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..."

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive."

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death."

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Concluding Challenge:

John 11:46 "Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him."

"The resurrection will not set us free for the future unless the cross also sets us free from the past."

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die..." John 11:25-26

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives all fear is gone.
Because I know who holds the future.
Life is worth the living. Just because He lives.*