

John 11:17-37 – “The Resurrection and the Life”

Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life meets us in our sorrow not just to comfort us with hope, but to reveal His glory.

The Biblical World – Understanding the Context:

Bethany was just two miles from Jerusalem, and mourning there was a deeply communal event—filled with family, friends, neighbors, and even professional mourners. It was the perfect setting for what was about to happen, a place where many would witness the miracle Jesus was about to perform. When Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days—a number significant in Jewish thought, since they believed the soul departed the body after three. This ensured no question of life remained. What looked like delay was divine design—Jesus waited so the glory of God would be unmistakable. In that atmosphere of grief, Martha and Mary expressed faith mixed with pain: “*Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.*” Yet in their sorrow, Jesus would reveal the full extent of His divine authority—He is not limited by time, death, or human understanding.

Passage Outline

- **I. Jesus Arrives in Bethany (vv. 17-22)**
 - **II. The Resurrection and The Life (vv. 23-29)**
 - **III. The People Limit The Power of Jesus (vv. 30-37)**
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Passage Notes

I. Jesus Arrives in Bethany. (vv. 17-22)

When Martha heard Jesus was coming, she immediately went to meet Him, even though her heart was grieving. Martha’s faith reminds us that confidence in Jesus’ presence brings hope even when circumstances seem beyond repair. Like Martha, we can meet Jesus in our pain through prayer, knowing His presence still carries power today.

II. The Resurrection and The Life (vv. 23-29)

Jesus declared, “*I am the resurrection and the life.*” As the resurrection, He holds power over physical

death; as the life, He gives eternal life that can never be lost. Martha's confession—"Yes, Lord, I believe You are the Christ, the Son of God"—shows what faith is: being fully convinced that Jesus gives and guarantees everlasting life. Her certainty models assurance rooted in Christ's promise, not performance.

III. The People Limit The Power of Jesus (vv. 30-37)

Mary fell at His feet in worship and pain. As she wept, Jesus groaned in His spirit and wept—fully identifying with human sorrow while preparing to demonstrate divine power. The crowd saw His love but doubted His strength: "*Could not this Man... have kept this man from dying?*" They believed in prevention, not resurrection. Yet Jesus' tears prove He feels our pain, even as He moves to conquer it.

The World of the Congregation – Applying This Passage Today:

In seasons of loss or confusion, we can rest knowing that Jesus both weeps with us and works beyond what we can see. His timing is perfect, His presence is powerful, and His promise of life is secure.

What This Means for Us

- 💡 **Faith grows when we draw near to Jesus in prayer, trusting that His presence brings power, hope, and peace in every circumstance.**
 - *Are you bringing your grief to Him or running from Him?*
 - → Meet Him in prayer and let His presence renew your hope.
- 💡 **Faith in Jesus as the Christ means confidence that He alone gives and guarantees eternal life—forever secure in His promise.**
 - *Do you rest in His promise or strive for assurance?*
 - → Say with Martha: "Yes, Lord, I believe You are the Christ."
- 💡 **The same Savior who wept with compassion now reigns with power—His love feels our pain and His strength overcomes it.**
 - *Are you doubting His strength because of delay?*
 - → Trust that His timing reveals His glory—He is still the Resurrection and the Life.