

I AM the Resurrection and the Life

Pastor Gerald L. Stigall

John 11:1-46

Introduction of the message:

"Death is still the only certainty in this life." Death is a brutal fact of life. And yet, we tend either to ignore this reality or deny it. We ought, however, to take death seriously because only when our deaths have meaning, can our lives begin to take on significance. We'll see why and how.

Introduction of the text:

The last and greatest miracle of Jesus is recorded in John 11. We will see that the way He raises Lazarus brings glory to the Father **AND** teaches key principles to us His disciples.

Setting and structure of the text:

John 11 revolves around four unstated questions which death forces us to answer while we are in the valleys of life. We'll hear the four declaration that Jesus makes when we grapple with grief.

I. Lord, who's in charge? (vss. 1-16).

1. Sometimes love delays when we expect action (vss. 1- 6)
2. Sometimes love acts when we expect delay (vss. 7-10)
3. Sometimes love speaks a different language (vss. 11-16)

Jesus declares: ***I AM*** _____!

II. Lord, where are you? (vss. 17-27).

Jesus challenges Martha's faith...and ours (verses 23-25). If you believe that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life, then you have solved the ultimate problem of death. Understand the two truths that He teaches Martha, His disciples, and us:

Truth #1:

Truth #2:

Jesus declares: ***I AM*** _____!

III. Lord, do you care? (vss. 28-37).

Note the two emotions of Jesus:

1. Jesus is "deeply moved in spirit and troubled" (vs. 33)
2. Jesus wept - He felt sorrow, compassion (vs. 35)

Jesus declares: ***I AM*** _____!

IV. Lord, am I alone? (vss. 38-44).

The sight of the tomb troubles Him (vs. 38). Why?

- Jesus instructs others to take away the stone (vs. 39)
- Jesus allays the doubt of Martha (vs. 40)
- Jesus for the sake of others looks up and speaks to the Father (vs. 41-42)
- Jesus instructs others to remove the grave clothes of Lazarus (vs. 44)

Jesus declares: ***I AM*** _____!

Conclusion/Application:

Before John draws a curtain over the scene, notice how all of humanity is represented in vss. 45-46. Resurrection remains the dividing line of humanity. Are you afraid of death? Let this be the day that you decide to believe Jesus' words. Are you alive, but bound with the wrappings of death? Then let Jesus, through His people, take off that which entangles you.

How will **YOU** specifically respond to the Word?