

I am the Resurrection

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In this meeting, following Easter, we consider the words spoken by our Lord recorded for us in [John 11:25-26](#):

²⁵ Jesus said unto her (*Martha*), **I** am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. **Believest thou this?**

RAISING OF LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

The words were spoken in the account of the raising of Lazarus [John 11:1-57](#).

When Jesus hears of the illness of His friend (3), an event that was to be for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified (4), He stays where He is for two days (6), not the reaction that one might expect, and only then purposes to travel to Judea (7). His disciples were concerned by the recent threat of stoning there (8). Jesus sought to allay their fears (9-10) and said to His disciples that Lazarus was sleeping (11) but they misunderstood, thinking that sleeping would aid his recovery (12). Jesus then plainly told them that Lazarus was dead (13-14) and what was to unfold was for their benefit (13). Still not understanding Thomas declares to his fellow disciples, somewhat resignedly, that they should follow Him even unto death (14). When Jesus came He found that Lazarus had been in the grave four days already (17), his body was in a state of decomposition (39). Martha went to meet Him (20) and subsequently Mary (28-32) and both believed that had Jesus been present their brother would not have died (21,32). Martha also believed that even now God would grant Jesus whatever He asked (22). Jesus seeks to comfort Martha that Lazarus would rise again (23) but she responds with the formal Pharisaic belief in the resurrection at the last day. It is then that Jesus proclaims to her that “**HE IS**” the resurrection and the life (25-26).

On arriving at the tomb Jesus groaned in spirit (33, 38) and wept (35), yes for Lazarus but also foreshadowing His own agony in Gethsemane, death and resurrection.

Jesus prays publically to His Father and cries aloud “Lazarus, come forth”, echoing the divine fiat “let there be light”. He is able to be the resurrection, the vanquisher of sin and death, because the union between Him and His Father is so close and indestructible, that the life of God is His life (41-43).

Like many of Jesus’ teachings and deeds this divided mankind into believers (*those who hath ears let them hear*) and unbelievers (45-46).

As stories of the miracle spread the authorities were anxious that the crowds would accept Jesus as leader. This would undermine the position and bring about the fall of the holy city, ending the Jewish nation as a privileged people within the Roman Empire, so they conspired to secure his arrest and death (47-57).

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DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

1. What is meant by resurrection?

- A real, physical event [John 20:25-28](#). Other accounts of resurrections recorded for us in New Testament Scripture are:
 - Jairus' daughter [Mark 5:22-43](#) ; The widows' son at Nain [Luke 7:11-16](#)
 - After Jesus' resurrection [Matt 27:50-53](#) ;
 - Dorcas [Acts 9:36-41](#)

2. What evidence is there for the resurrection of our Lord?

- The actions and accounts of the authorities:
 - Chief Priests and Pharisees [Matt 27:62-66](#)
 - The Watch (soldiers) and cover-up [Matt 28:11-15](#)
- Witnesses to the appearance of Jesus following His death:
 - The empty tomb [Matt 28:1-8](#) , [Mark 16:1-8](#) , [Luke 23:54 - Luke 24:6](#)
 - On the road to Emmaus [Luke 24:13-36](#)
 - To the Apostles, the Five Hundred and Paul [1 Cor 15:3-8](#)
 - To Thomas [John 20:24-29](#)

3. Why is the resurrection of our Lord important?

- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God [Rom 3:23](#)
- The wages of sin is death [Rom 6:23](#)
- If Christ is not risen we are still in our sins [1 Cor 15:16-19](#)

4. What does it mean that we are "Justified" by His resurrection?

- We are all the "objects of wrath" [Rom 3:10](#) A righteous God requires the debt for our sin to be (judicially) paid.
- By His death Jesus made a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world. [Prayer of Consecration](#)
- His resurrection is evidence that His sacrifice was accepted
- We are justified by faith in Him, that is we accept His sacrifice has paid our debt in full, which we are totally unable to do however well intentioned, and His righteousness is imputed to us; we are reconciled to God [Gal 2:16](#)

5. Who does resurrection affect?

- [John 5:25-29](#) , [Acts 24:15](#)

6. What does it mean to us now?

- [Phil 3:7-10](#) , [Gal 2:20](#) , [Eph 2:10](#)

7. What does it mean for us in the future?

- [John 14:1-3](#) , [John 17:20-24](#) , [1 Thess 4:13-17](#)