

"Do You Believe This?"

In John 11:25-26, Jesus said to Martha, the sister of the dead and buried Lazarus, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

In these few words, Jesus packs important doctrine even as He sought to comfort Martha in her grief over losing Lazarus. A few moments before He said this, Martha sought to shift responsibility onto Jesus for the death of Lazarus.

1. The first thing He communicates is "I AM." That is He is making the consistent claim that He is the Great I AM of Exodus 3:14, when God said to Moses "I Am Who I Am." That is, that Jesus is the incarnation of the Eternal God. The Eternal God the Son had become the earthly Son of God. He had also indicated this in John 8:58, when, after being questioned for saying "'Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.' So the Jews said to him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?' ...Jesus said '... before Abraham was, I AM.'" What a bold statement! And the Jews understood it exactly, and began to prepare to stone Jesus for blasphemy by claiming to be God. Yet He would continue to affirm that claim, and back it up by Himself rising from the grave.

2. Jesus then says that He is "The Resurrection." This is a further claim to life more powerful than could be imagined. Not only was He the essence of Life (John 1:4), He is able to bring life out of death. He was the One who raised the dead. Martha had little to worry about, as she would see for herself in a few minutes. No human being was beyond His power. And what was more, Jesus would be the One who would rise from the dead—something never before seen in human history!

3. Jesus goes further: "and the Life." He is *Life in Himself* (see point 1 above). He *brings* life! As the Creator, He brought physical life out of nothing! As the Redeemer, He brings abundant life (John 10:10), out of that which was useless or rejected. As Saviour, He brings eternal life that will be ours forever—if we trust Him!

4. You may live if you trust in Him. Physical death has no power over you! You may have Eternity through Christ, and through Christ alone. We may have abundant life now if we trust in Him! This

trust is not simply "Yes, I believe" as one believes that grass is green or ice is cold. This trust is the deep-seated trust that follows through with humble obedience and faith through all of our days on this earth. That is, you live as though you really believe it!

5. Do you believe this? Not "believe" in the generic sense (or concept). But believe in the personal sense (you?). Have you made that personal commitment of trust—belief—dependence—reliance—on Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord? Martha said that she believed in the resurrection at the Last Day (to eternal life or to judgment)—that is, she understood the teaching. Yet Jesus is asking, "Martha, do you believe me? Do you believe in Me, as the Resurrection and the Life incarnate?"

And then, He demonstrated it by *calling Lazarus forth from the grave*, where he had lain dead for over three days! He, Life itself, had brought life from death, and it stood before them, still wrapped in burial clothes! What answer would anyone have to this display of divine power?

He Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Do *you* believe this? May you have a blessed Easter, and a bright Eternity in the Lord Jesus Christ!

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