

Jesus' "I Am" Sayings in John's Gospel

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011

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Message Truth:

The fifth instance of the "I Am" saying used by John, to reassure his reader of Christ's divinity, is the assertion that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. Here Jesus shows us that there are NO LIMITS to His divine power. One need not wait until the day of judgment to be a witness to His awesome power that can overcome man's greatest limitation, death.

Message Text:

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the first day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.** Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." John 11:17-27

Jesus' p_____ knows no l_____:

1. Jesus can o_____ man's ultimate limit, d_____.

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." John 11:17-22

Martha's greeting is an expression of faith. Had Jesus been present, her brother would not have died.

If you are sick, you want a physician and not a medical book. If you are taken to court, you want a lawyer and not a law book. At death's door, you need a risen Savior and not a book about Him. Jesus Himself is the Resurrection and the Life.

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the first day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.** Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." John 11:23-27

2. Jesus' power is not f _____ only, but can be a _____ here and now!

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." John 11:38-44

3. Our verbal c _____ and life c _____ do not always a _____!

Martha's c _____

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." John 11:27

Martha's c _____

³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." John 11:39

Martha's Memory Needs Adjusting

● What most remember about Martha.

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" ⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:40-42

● She was too caught up in the busyness of the moment to take time to be with Jesus.

● Jesus does not hold her previous shortcoming or her lack of present understanding against her.

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²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the first day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.** Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ the Son of God, who was to come into the world." John 11:20a-27

● Her faith is stated unequivocally. Martha believes that: Jesus is the Messiah Jesus is the Son of God Jesus is the One who was sent by God into the world

● We should remember Martha at her best and not at her worst.

Are you seeing His power displayed in your life today?
Does your confession match your commitment?