THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

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**DATE: 9/16/2018 am**

**TEXT: John 11:18-26**

**INTRODUCTION**

John's Gospel is filled with so many vivid portraits of the Lord Jesus Christ

Everyone is a Masterpiece of His Greatness and His Glory

In **John 11**, the greatest of all His miracles is on display

… The Resurrection of Lazarus

In it, we see the Mighty Power of the Lord Jesus Christ

Ifall His other miracles were taken out of the Gospels

… and all we had left was this one miracle, …

We would have enough in our possession to conclude that Jesus is the Son of God

This morning, let’s look together at these wonderful verses and get a glimpse of Jesus as The Resurrection and The Life … and in so doing …

I intend to show you how Jesus can make all the difference in your life … now and for eternity

I want to show you why Jesus is worthy of our faith and what He can do in our life if we will only trust Him

In **I Corinthians 15:19** Paul tells us **- “*If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable*”**

Paul is telling us that our Hope shouldn’t only be in this Life

… But, in our Life to Come – Our future Resurrected Life

I want to show you why we don’t have to live in Misery, Defeat, and Despair (in the here and now)

Why we don’t have to fear the day of our death, and how we can enjoy an abundant and full life today

I want to show you what it will take to come to know Jesus

And then, what it takes to enjoy the glorious life that He offers

Let's look at what Jesus means, when He says, that He is …

**“The Resurrection and The Life”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “PROBLEM” – v. 21**

… That had Lazarus’ Family Defeated

***“Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died”***

Lazarus is dead and they are grieving over his loss

Someone they loved dearly … was taken from them

Let’s look at a couple of Truths here …

**A. Death is ‘Universal’**

There is no getting around it

Everyone will die at some point

**Hebrews 9:27 – *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”***

We all have an appointment with death,

God’s got it marked on His calendar

I don't know if you thought about it or not

But death is getting closer to us with every minute of every day

One day, our time will run out

Someone has mathematically calculated a schedule that compares the average lifetime with a single day

Let’s say we begin our day at 7 a.m.

So, if your age is:

-- 15, your at about 10:30 a.m.

-- 25, the time is 12:45 p.m.

-- 35, the time is 3:00 p.m.

-- 45, the time is 5:15 p.m.

-- 55, the time is 7:30 p.m.

-- 65, the time is 9:55 p.m.

-- 70, the time is 11:00 p.m.

It is always later than we think!

**James 4:14 – *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”***

Not only is **Death ‘Universal’,** but …

**B. Death is always ‘Unexpected’**

Martha and Mary probably never thought that Lazarus would die the day he did

But Death had other ideas!

Even though men know death is coming, it still seems to always take them by surprise

Ill. According to an old fable, a man made an unusual agreement with Death. He told the grim reaper that he would willingly accompany him when it came time to die, but only on one condition—that Death would send a messenger well in advance to warn him. The agreement was made. Weeks winged away into months, and months into years. Then one cold winter evening, as the man sat alone thinking about all he had, Death suddenly entered the room and tapped him on the shoulder. The man was startled and cried out in despair, *“You're here so soon and without warning! I thought we had an agreement.”* Death replied, *“I've more than kept my part. I've sent you many messengers. Look at yourself in the mirror and you'll see some of them.”* As the man complied, Death whispered, *“Notice your hair! Once it was full and black, now it is thin and white.*

*Look at the way you cock your head to listen to my voice because you can't hear very well. Observe how close you must get to the mirror in order to see yourself clearly. Yes, I've sent many messengers through the years. I've kept my part. It's too bad you didn't keep yours. I'm sorry you're not ready for me, but the time has come to leave.”*

**Eccl. 12:1-7 …**

Don’t be guilty of letting death sneak up on you unawares, and catch you unprepared

There is a great need for being ready, and there is no excuse for not being ready

**Proverbs 27:1 – *“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth”***

The Rich Fool in **Luke 12:16-20** thought he had more time then he had

Don't let that happen!

Salvation is the ONE area of life where you’d be foolish to delay a decision for Jesus

You can put off paying taxes, changing your oil, or any number of other things that you probably would never think of putting off

But you can’t put off, preparing for Death

What usually happens is, people put it off until it’s too late

Something happens, making it impossible for them to call upon the Lord or they die suddenly

Don’t let that happen to you!

No one knows when God is going to send for us

The Bible tells us we need to be ready

**II Cor. 6:2 –** Today ***“is the day of salvation”***

Whether He calls us through death

**Psalm 23:4 – *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me”***

Or when Christ returns at the rapture

**I Thessalonians 4:17 – *“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”***

Either way we should always be ready

**We are all going to stand before the Lord, we just don’t know when!**

**THAT’S THE “PROBLEM”**

Next, let’s look at **…**

**II. THE “POWER” - v. 25 a**

… Jesus Describes

***“Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection, and the Life:”***

Jesus claimed to possess Power over Death

He claimed to be the Resurrection and the Life

He’s saying that He possesses this Power within Himself

Therefore, when you know Jesus Christ, you have life

**I John 5:12 – *“He that hath the Son hath life; and he …***

***… that hath not the Son of God hath not life”***

What right does Jesus have to make such claims?

Let's look at what the Bible says about His life-giving power

1. **He ‘Raised Others’ from the Grave**
2. Jairus's daughter

**Mark 5:41,42 – *“And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise” “And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment”***

1. The Widow of Nain's son – **Luke 7:11-16**

**Luke 7:14, 15 – *“And He came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And He said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise” “And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And He delivered him to his mother”***

1. Lazarus - **John 11:43, 44**

(Of course, these aren’t the only people who where raised from the dead in the Bible)

But we see Jesus proved His Power over Death and the Grave by raising these people from the dead

He also proved His Power when …

1. **He ‘Raised Himself’ from the Grave**

His horrible death on the cross was not in vain

If the story ended there, it would have been a tragedy

But, thank God, three days later …

Jesus came out of that tomb, victorious over Death, Hell and the Grave – AMEN!

**Matthew 28:5,6 – *“And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified” “He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay”***

And one day …

1. **He ‘Promises to Raise Us’ from the Grave**

Because of what He has done for others and for Himself, we can have confidence that He will do it for us as well

Those who have trusted Jesus as their personal Saviour

… can have the confidence that Jesus will one day resurrect their bodies from the grave

Let’s look at **I Corinthians 15:12-23 …**

By the way, when the body does die, the soul & spirit live on

**II Corinthians 5:8 – *“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”***

This truth is plainly seen in the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus, in **Luke 16:19-31**

It’s as if Jesus lifted the veil that separates us from death and showed us what happens to the souls of men

Every saint of God goes to be with the Lord and those who refused to come to Jesus can only look forward to an eternity in Hell forever

**THE “PROBLEM” WAS DEATH**

**THE “POWER” WAS WITH JESUS**

Lastly, we see …

**III. THE “PROMISE” – vs. 25 b, 26 a**

… Jesus Declared

***“he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:” “And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die”***

In **John 14:2** Jesus made a promise to His Disciples

***“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you”***

If there is ever a truth we need to get ahold of, it’s this truth

That Truth is - God Does Not & Can Not lie!

**Hebrews 6:18** tells us **– *“it is impossible for God to lie”***

Hopefully by now, you’ve gotten that settled

So, with that, first, let’s look at …

**A. The ‘Conquering’ of Death**

Those who place their faith in Jesus Christ will never die!

According to God's Word, we have passed from death unto life

**John 5:24 – *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall Not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”***

We shall live forever

**I John 5:11 – *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son”***

**B. The ‘Cure’ for Death**

**Ephesians 2:1 – *“And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”***

Jesus has the power to take a life destroyed by sin and give it a brand-new start

He specializes in giving dead men new life

**II Corinthians 5:17 – *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

He can take away the effects of sin and will give anyone a fresh start

**Isaiah 1:18 – *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool”***

If what the world believes about death is true

Then everything for Lazarus was over

There would be no more family, no more friends, no more joy, no more anything

His life was over, until Jesus passed by and made the difference between the end and a new beginning

In **John 12**, we find Lazarus sitting at the table and dining with the Saviour

Jesus gave him a new life, and He can do the same for us

**C. The ‘Common’ Requirement**

To receive the Promise of Christ and be rescued from spiritual death and from the power of the grave,

We have to believe on Jesus

That is, we must trust Him alone for our soul's salvation

**Acts 16:31** tells us **– *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,”***

The Bible does not tell us to trust our Works, our Goodness, or our Religion to earn salvation

Neither can we place our confidence in the church or even in a changed life

Salvation comes only through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

Don’t be deceived; any plan that neglects Jesus and His shed blood is doomed for failure

**Proverbs 16:25 – *“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”***

**Acts 4:12 – *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”***

**Hebrews 2:3 – *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, …***

***… and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him;”***

**1.** Works will never get the job done

**Galatians 2:16 – *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified”***

**2.** Turning over a new leaf will never get the job done

**Matthew 12:43-45** and the story of the unclean spirit that went out and came back

**3.** Religion will never get the job done

**Titus 3:5 – *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”***

**4.** When we come to trust Jesus, we will find that the job is already done

**I John 2:2 – *“And He is the propitiation (answer) for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world”***

**Isaiah 53:6 – *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all”***

When Jesus died on the cross, His last words were –

***“It is finished!”***

Please note that He did not say, *“I am finished”*

This was not the cry of a defeated man,

This was the triumphant shout of a Great Victor

It’s the cry of Someone who has completed His task and fulfilled His mission

When Jesus died on the cross, He finished the plan of salvation for all men

Now, anyone who receives Jesus finds that salvation has been prepared and paid for in full

All the lost sinner has to do is receive the finished work of Jesus for his own

**THE “PROBLEM” WAS DEATH**

**THE “POWER” WAS WITH JESUS**

**THE “PROMISE” IS GIVEN**

**CONCLUSION**

Look at the Plea Jesus Delivered at the end of **v. 26**

***“Believest thou this?”***

Jesus closes His conversation with Martha by asking her about her faith

You see, it does not matter what she has heard or has seen

What matters in the end is that her faith is placed in Jesus and in Jesus alone

Why is this so vitally important? (Because …)

-- This is the Only Plan that Guarantees Heaven

-- This is the Only Plan that Guarantees our victory over sin

-- This is the Only Plan that is Endorsed by God

How you answer that question will decide your eternity

If you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ, then I invite you to come to Him right now

He loves you and will receive you

If you will only come to Him, He will give you everlasting life without charge

If you have the least bit of concern about where you will spend eternity think long and hard about what you will do with Jesus

**THE “PROBLEM” WAS DEATH**

**THE “POWER” WAS WITH JESUS**

**THE “PROMISE” THAT WAS GIVEN**