February 1, 2026

John 11:25-37 (NLT)
Three Things Every Disciple Must believe About Jesus, Part 3
He Is the Resurrection and life

Last Sunday, I said that what makes the death of Jesus unlike the death of any other human is the fact that he is the Son of God. Not only that, but he also willingly died for something he was not guilty of; that something being sin. And not only that, but he also died so that those who are guilty of sin and deserving of eternal death (and that's everyone) would not have to face such an end. Now add to this, that he rose from the grave. Jesus' resurrection gives validity to everything the preceded it. His birth, his claims about himself, his miracles, his teaching, etc. Without the resurrection all that preceded would have meant nothing. It would have had no eternal value. Jesus' resurrection is the apex of his earthly ministry. Every disciple must believe that Jesus literally got up from the grave. We must believe as he states in our text that he is the resurrection and life. That is, that he not only had the power to raise himself from the grave, thus conquering death and sin, but he has the power to and will raise everyone who believes in him to an eternity with God.

John 10:17-18 "[17] The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. [18] No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." **NIV**

John 6:40 "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." **NIV**

With this said, I want to answer two questions raised by the text this morning.

First, why did Jesus ask her the question? V25-26 "[25] Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. [26] Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" At first glance Martha's response seems to answer Jesus' question but I beg to differ. Her response sounds mechanical. It would be like us simply quoting **John 3:16** when someone inquires what we believe about God and Jesus. Why do I say this? Well, in **v24** of this chapter Martha expresses to Jesus that she recognizes Lazarus will rise on the last day. But Jesus tells her in so many words that Lazarus can rise right now. As a matter of fact, Lazarus is not dead because of who he, Jesus, is. The resurrection and the life. You would think that this redirection by Jesus would warrant further inquiry from Martha. Maybe even a request for him to go to the tomb right now and raise her brother. But it does not. Furthermore, later in the story, **v39**, Martha protests Jesus' request to have the stone rolled away due the fact that Lazarus has been dead for 4 days. She has no expectation of Jesus raising her brother form the dead. Sisters and Brothers, I believe she was not clear on what her answer to Jesus' question truly meant for her or for all who believed in him. This is why Jesus asked her the question. Here me! You cannot follow Jesus faithfully being unclear or uncertain about who he is. Every disciple must grow in his/her understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done. Lack of clarity leads to unfaithfulness, even unbelief. Are you clear on what her answer means for you? Do you believe that because Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God, that you have eternal life right now?

1 John 2:24-25 "[24] So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship

with the Son and with the Father. [25] And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us." **NLT**

1 John 5:11-13 "[11] And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. [13] I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life." **NLT**

Second question. Why did Jesus cry? V33-37 "[33] When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. [34] "Where have you put him?" he asked them. They told him, "Lord, come and see." [35] Then Jesus wept. [36] The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!" [37] But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?" Unlike most, I no longer believe it was due to the grief he was experiencing as a result of Lazarus' passing. Contextually, that does not make sense to me any longer. He had just finished telling Martha her brother would rise again. Which we know he meant right now. Not only that, but he also told her he was the resurrection and the life and what that meant for all who believed in him. Finally, he requests to go to the tomb. Not to grieve but to raise Lazarus. So, why does he cry? I believe it is in deep frustration that they did not understand who he was. Despite the time spent in fellowship with him, despite the miracles, despite his teaching, despite irrefutable evidence they still do not understand who he was and what it meant for them. He is deeply frustrated, angered even, and this evokes his tears. This begs the question, "Even as our resurrected Lord, does our unbelief, our stubbornness evoke tears from Jesus?" How does it make him feel when we ignore or discount his testimony? When we ignore the

record of scripture regarding his life and ministry, choosing to believe what we want about Jesus instead. Does he lament for us?! Why did Jesus cry? Unbelief, possibly. Let me say it again! Incorrect belief about Jesus is tantamount to unbelief.

Luke 13:34-25 "[34] "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me. [35] And now, look, your house is abandoned. And you will never see me again until you say, 'Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Let me close. Here the good news. Their incorrect belief doesn't prevent Jesus from loving them. The miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead was an act of love on God/Jesus' part, because it corrected their understanding. **V45** of this chapter, "[45] Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen." Even in our misunderstanding God still shows up. It's my prayer that we are counted among the many who believe in Jesus. That he is the literal Son of God, that he died for my sin, and that he is the resurrection and the life. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.