

I AM

Part Five: *resurrection and life*

April 3rd, 2022

This spring, we are examining the seven “I AM” declarations from John’s Gospel to get a better understanding of Jesus and how the Great I AM perfectly meets our needs. Today, we are going to look at John Chapter Eleven where Jesus claims, “*I AM the resurrection and the life.*”

John shows us five scenes in the John 11:1-44:

Scene One: The Critical Man

Vs. 1-2

John begins chapter eleven with a blunt statement – “*A man named Lazarus was sick.*” Lazarus was a common name in Jesus’ day. It was a shortened form of the Hebrew name Eleazar, which means “helped by God.”

Scene Two: The Concerned Sisters

Vs. 3-6

Mary and Martha’s message to Jesus was simply, “*Lord, your dear friend is very sick.*” They obviously felt like that was enough to get Jesus to hurry to Bethany and heal their brother. But Jesus didn’t rush to Bethany.

Scene Three: The Cautious Disciples

Vs. 7-16

When Jesus told His disciples that He wanted to go to Bethany, which was in the region of Judea, the disciples reminded their master that the people in Judea tried to stone Him just a few days earlier when He claimed to be the Son of God (John 10:30).

Scene Four: The Caring Friend

Vs. 17-37

Everyone mourning Lazarus’ passing thought there was nothing Jesus could do to change the sad situation. But then...

- **Jesus declared, “I AM the resurrection and the life.”**

Jesus was claiming to be the all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present God, and He was claiming to have the power and authority to resurrect the dead and give eternal life. Jesus promised Christians that they will live again after physical death and their eternal life cannot be terminated by physical death (John 3:16; 36).

Scene Five: The Commanding Son of God Vs. 38-44

When Jesus arrived at the gravesite, He told the servants to roll away the large stone that had been placed over the mouth of the cave. Martha immediately protested, but Jesus responded, “*Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?*” As the crowd stood silently, the servants rolled the stone away and...

- **Jesus proved He has the power to defeat death and give eternal life.**

Raising Lazarus from the dead was not the last or most visible of Jesus’ miracles, but because Lazarus was a well know figure, and he had been in the grave four days when Jesus brought him back to life, the miracle could not be denied or ignored. It clearly proved that Jesus was the Son of God, and He had the power to do anything! This miracle drew many people to Jesus and it pushed the Pharisees to come up with a plan to execute Jesus. But the Great I AM would rise again on Easter Sunday!