

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

The Gospel of John

John 11:1–37

Read John 11:1–37.

1. Re-read verses 1–14, 21, 32.
 - a. Describe the drama that is unfolding from Martha and Mary’s point of view. (Allow yourself to take in the gravity of the situation – flesh out what it must have been like for them to go through this experience.)
 - b. Now describe what the events look like from Jesus’ point of view.
2. How does John describe Jesus’ relationship with these siblings? (vv. 3, 5)
3. What is the connection between God’s glory and Jesus’ glory? (v. 4; Jn. 1:14; 5:19–21; Heb. 1:1–3a)
4. What is surprising about Jesus’ response when he hears that Lazarus is sick? (v. 6)
5. What confidence does Jesus have regarding Lazarus? (vv. 4a, 11–15, 23; * vv. 41, 42)
6. Jesus is finally ready to go to Bethany.
 - a. What do his disciples fear? (vv. 8, 16)
 - b. Why doesn’t Jesus fear what they fear? (vv. 9–10; Jn. 7:30; 9:4; 10:17–18)
7. What do Martha and Mary (and some of the Jews) believe about Jesus? (vv. 21, 32, 37)

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

8. Martha does not anticipate that Jesus will raise Lazarus from the dead immediately, but she does believe that he will raise him at the last day (vv. 24, 38–39).
 - a. What does she believe about Jesus? (vv. 21–22, 27)

 - b. Why is this remarkable given her circumstances?

9. In this passage Jesus doesn't say, "I *give* resurrection and life," but, "I *am* the resurrection and the life" (v. 25). What is the difference?

10. What condition is there for experiencing the promise in verses 25–26?

11. When Jesus sees Mary and the mourners weeping, he is "deeply moved in spirit and troubled" (v. 33). The thrust behind these words is "anger, outrage, or emotional indignation"¹.
 - a. What do you think Jesus is angry about?

 - b. How might his response ultimately bring comfort to his friends?

12. Death is a formidable foe and one over which we have no power, yet those who believe need not fear death. What does this passage teach about death for those who believe?

13. The desire of Martha and Mary was that Jesus come to them immediately and heal their brother. Jesus knew what they wanted, and yet because he loved them he chose to wait. Can you think of a time in your life when you were intent on God's acting in a particular way and were initially disappointed, but later understood how God's "delay" was a blessing? If so, what did that process look like for you?

How was God's love for you revealed in his delay?

Is there a situation in your life that is an opportunity for you to trust that God's "delay" is intended for your good and his glory? Ask a few people in your life to pray for you about this.

¹ Andreas Köstenberger, *John*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004), 340.