

## Episode #1-43 – Who the Resurrection Is

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. In this passage, we are examining the seventh, greatest sign in the gospel of John revealing that Jesus is the Son of God. We saw that the Lord had a family of friends, two sisters and a brother, named Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Lazarus became deathly ill, but the Lord waited two days before going to heal him. Now, the Lord meets his sister Martha on the way to their town.

III. John 11:17-37. The Lord meets Martha and Mary.

- A. V.17. An Israelite theory about death: the spirit remains hovering around the body trying to get back into it for 48 hours after death. The Lord had raised people before, but always within 48 hours of death. Healing after this time would be more meaningful to them than those resurrections. This 48 hour idea is not found in the Bible, but it seems many of them believed it.
- B. V.18. Bethany was about 1.75 miles from Jerusalem (15 furlongs.) A small town.
- C. V.19. They were a prominent family! No doubt, they were of the rich class. Some think they may have owned Bethany! We gather before burial, but they gather after.
- D. V.20. Martha runs to Him as soon as she hears He is coming. This was good! Why did Mary not come? She may have not heard. No reason to think she was “pouting.”
- E. V.21. This was not a rebuke. Even if He left immediately, He still would have gotten there after Lazarus’ death. She is just stating her faith in His power to heal.
- F. V.22. Some faint hope of resurrection in her words here? Perhaps.
- G. V.23. The Lord offers a true word of comfort!
- H. V.24. Martha believes in resurrection. “In” the last day. Not 24 hours, but Israel’s greatest day. Isaiah 60:19-22. The hope of every Israelite was to rise from death then.
- I. V.25. Martha spoke generally of the resurrection. The Lord is particular. Resurrection and life are personified in Him. Those who believe in Him will live.
- J. V.26. Many who live and believe have died. Never=*ou me eis ton aiona*. Like I Cor. 15:51-52. Those who live when the resurrection takes place will not die, but change instantly to resurrection bodies. Much the same thing here, but not clearly stated.
- K. V.27. Martha responds to His challenge with faith. He came into the world according to the Old Testament Scriptures. Do we too believe this?

IV. Conclusion: Martha believed in resurrection, but the Lord revealed that that was not enough. She needed to believe that He is the Resurrection and the Life. Do we believe this? Do we believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is a source of life, and that all who believe will live someday through Him? This is the purpose of the gospel of John: that we would believe!