

The Way of The Cross: The Victorious Life
John 11:25-26

In John 11, Jesus claimed to have resurrection power and the power to give life. By life, I take that to mean eternal life when our days here are done but also abundant life now. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and He is the path that we want to be on. (John 14:6)

Jesus is able to take you to where you really want to go.

Jesus is able to so deeply impact your life that you become the person that you really want to become.

John 11 contains an incredible story in the Bible of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. In that story, Jesus makes an amazing claim:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." John 11:25-26 (ESV)

Notice that Jesus claims to have resurrection power. ***I am*** the resurrection. That's not all. ***I am*** the resurrection and the life. What good is a resurrection if you are going to die again? That simply delays the inevitable. Jesus is the resurrection AND the life!

Jesus does not say that He will bring about the resurrection or that He will cause the resurrection. Jesus claims to BE the resurrection.

In both verses 25 & 26: ***Whoever believes in me.***

Not...believe anything you want.

Not...doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere.

Believe in me. Jesus eliminated all other options for the recipients of His resurrection power.

When Jesus took Martha from a general faith to a specific faith in Him, He was taking her from faith in a creed to faith in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus takes her from believing in a commonly held position to a specific person. Jesus puts it all on Himself. I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes ***in me.***

Okay, so how do we know that this event really happened? How do we know that some well-minded people didn't just embellish, and one thing led to another? How do we know that some evil-minded people didn't make the whole thing up?

If Jesus made that claim and it was NOT true and He knew that it wasn't not true, He was a deceiver.

If Jesus made that claim and it was NOT true but He didn't know it wasn't true, He was deceived.

If Jesus made that claim and was accurate, He is deity.

What you cannot do is hold to the position that Jesus was a good religious teacher.

He's not good if He was a deceiver. That would make Him a liar.

He's not a good religious teacher if He was deceived about His identity. Lunatic.

He's only good if He is exactly who He claimed to be.

With the inherent ability of resurrection and life, Jesus would have to be deity. Lord.

Your options are Liar, Lunatic, Lord. It's not logical to say He's a good man.

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read John 11 in its entirety and share your reactions to that story in the group.
2. Which person in the story do you think you identify with the most?
3. You may have heard Pastor Karl say, "Many people develop their belief system based on their desires rather than truth." Have you seen this in life? Have you seen this in your own life?
4. How do we know that Jesus has resurrection power? Power to change lives?
5. Discuss the three options that Pastor Karl presented regarding the claim of Jesus to be the resurrection and the life. Deceiver, Deceived, Deity. Or you can go with this: Liar, Lunatic, Lord.
(This analysis is recorded in the study notes above)
5. Have you seen Jesus come through and help you with the "stuff of life"?
6. Discuss this quote from Pastor Tim Keller:

"The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."