

I am the LIFE!

John 11:17-37

Intro:

- The Call of Christ is to the need of our heart:
 - We are hungry, He is BREAD
 - We are thirsty, He is LIVING WATER
 - We are in Darkness, He is LIGHT
- Death is the great fear of our lives
 - The result of sin... period!
 - The coming of Christ would destroy death
 - Jesus wants us to see and know HIM, in LIFE!

I. The Reality of Death

- Death comes to all... even a friend of JESUS! (11)
 - Lazarus had been in the tomb 4 days (17)
 - Jews believed the spirit left after 3...
 - No doubt he was DEAD!
- Martha and Mary's dilemma... (21, 32)
 - If YOU had been here, he would not have died!
 - We want to avoid the hard things of life...
 - Jesus wants to draw us through them to HIM!
 - The sisters did the right thing... go TO Jesus!

II. The Reality Love

- Jesus knows the burdens we struggle with:
 - He knew Lazarus had died (11,14)
 - He knew the pain of losing someone (33-35)
 - He knew the emotions of grief (36)
- But, Jesus knew one thing more...
 - WHO HE WAS!!! (25-26)
 - THE *anastasis* – rise again to life
 - THE *zōe* – life, vitality
 - Believers live and have life always... IN HIM!

III. The Reality Life

- Believes – *pisteuo* – present active participle
 - This is more than doctrine, theology, or action
 - Martha – I have believed – perfect active indicative
 - She had done it and continued to do so...
 - ...even when Lazarus was still dead & stinking!
- It was not the prayer that set Lazarus free...
 - IT WAS JESUS, SENT ONE, FOR OUR SAKE!
 - The GLORY of God (40)
 - Some people still disbelieve...

Consider:

- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
- John 5:25 Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.
- Rom 5: so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 2Tim 1: 9,10 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

Consider:

- 1John 5:11-13 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that **you may know** that you have eternal life. (emphasis added)