

I Am the Resurrection and the Life
John 11

This morning we will discover one of the most powerful of the “I AM” statements and the context in which it was spoken. The context is an example of the humanity of Jesus and a display of the deity of Jesus. We often get ourselves in a ditch, focusing only upon one of the two.

Remember the grievance of the religious leaders, “You being a man, make Yourself out to be God” (10:33) Then John gives us the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. This miracle fully reveals the two natures of Jesus.

- **Jesus was clearly human and had human relationships and friendships. (1-3)** Everything normal about a human relationship can be seen in this setting. Jesus had friends. Jesus loved His friends. Jesus visited His friends. Jesus cares for His friends. Jesus wept with His friends. We should expect no less!
- **Jesus was clearly divine and brought His deity to bear of this situation. (4)** The whole of this story is not about a concerned friend, compassionate but unable to help; it is the story of the Omnipotent God coming into the hopeless situation and bringing life!

John selected “seven signs” or miracles to demonstrate Christ’s claims to Deity:

- **Jesus turned the water to wine – Ch. 2**
- **Jesus raises the nobleman’s son – Ch. 4**
- **Jesus healed the lame man at the pool – Ch. 5**
- **Jesus feeding the five thousand – Ch. 6**
- **Jesus walking on the water – Ch. 6**
- **Jesus opening the eyes of the man born blind – Ch. 9**
- **Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead – Ch. 11**

Let’s look at this miracle as a three-part drama.

Act #1 - Lazarus is dying, but Jesus is delaying. (11:1--14) Lazarus was sick, at the point of death, Mary and Martha was facing an extreme crisis. They sent a messenger to find Jesus! For they knew how much the Lord loved Lazarus and their family.

Interesting side note: They used the Greek word, “phileo” in verse 3, meaning brotherly love. John responds in verse 5, Jesus had “agape” love for Lazarus.

But why did Jesus delay? If He had only been human, he would have rushed to give some comfort. But when you can raise the dead as easily as cure the sick, there’s no need to rush!

- **Verse 4** – So God would be glorified and the Son of God as well.
- **Verse 15** – To teach the disciples to have greater faith. (They would soon see Him die and be laid in a tomb)
- **Verse 42** – To cause the lost to believe, this miracle would be used by God for evangelistic purposes.

Act #2. - Mary and Martha are grieving, but Jesus is comforting. (11:20-27; 32-36) Notice the faith of both **Martha** and **Mary** (**verses 21-22 and 32**). They knew who Jesus was and what He could do! **Verse 22:** Martha expressed great faith, even if she didn’t totally understand how. Many people were gathered to comfort, but no one can comfort like the Lord!

- **The presence of the Lord.** After the delay, Jesus came to where they were. They came out to meet Him. They needed His presence.
- **The promises of the Lord.** When our world has been turned upside down, we do not need cliches, or trite meaningless statements; we need a sure Word from God.
- **The passion of the Lord.** We see one of the clearest evidences of our Lord’s humanity in the shortest verse in the Bible, “Jesus wept.” It may be only two words, but it could not be fully explained or understood in a library full of

books. He knew what he was about to do, but He also was moved by their grief.

Act #3. Lazarus is decaying, but Jesus is calling. (11:38-46) Someone has said if Jesus had not personally called Lazarus, everybody in the cemetery would have come forth. **Death and the grave is no match for Jesus!** Jesus himself would arise!

The response: Some believed in Him, exercised saving faith; Some believed the miracle, yet rejected Jesus as Lord! The miracle could not be ignored, neither can Christ! How have you responded?