

# **SERMON OUTLINE**

## ***'Who do you say I am?'***

### **The 'I Am' sayings in John's Gospel - 5**

#### **John 11 v1 - 44**

Key Text (v25a) - "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Key Question (v25b) - "Do you believe this?"

Note - This 5th 'I Am' saying comes to us within the context of the 7th, and the climatic, sign in John's Gospel - the raising up of Lazarus from the death of the tomb. We therefore, in order to understand what Jesus was saying in this 'I Am' statement, need to look at the story of this resurrection miracle as whole.

#### **1. JESUS - AND HIS INEXPLICABLE DELAY**

Lazarus was ill! Clearly - he was dying, and Jesus knew this. See v2 - 3. And yet Jesus delayed in going to Bethany. See v6.

There are 2 things about God that we need to remember when, in certain circumstances (just like this), He seems to do nothing:-

##### **A. THE GLORY OF GOD**

See v4 & 1 v14. And - v38 - 40.

##### **B. THE LOVE OF GOD**

See v5. Key Principle - We need to learn to interpret our circumstances by the love of Christ, and not interpret the love of Christ by our circumstances.

#### **2. JESUS - AND HIS REASSURING PROMISE**

Key Words (v25a) - "I am the resurrection...." Note the context here - Martha's statement of belief in the doctrine of the resurrection. See v21 - 24. To Martha, the resurrection was nothing more than a key doctrine - it was the creed she confessed. 'I believe in the resurrec-

tion of the dead.' What Jesus was seeking to do was to turn this theological doctrine into a personal experience - a personal experience of the Jesus, who as the resurrection, is the answer to death.

Jesus is the answer to death in a 3-fold way:-

### **A. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO SPIRITUAL DEATH**

"I am the resurrection and the life....."

Key Point - in the Bible death is always spoken of as separation. In other words, spiritual death is the separation of the soul from God. See Is 59 v2. The gospel of the death and resurrection of Jesus is all about being reconciled to the God who, to know, is life.

Key Verses - Eph 2 v1, Jn 17 v3, 1 Jn 5 v11 - 12. In the miracle of the raising up of Lazarus to life from the dead we have a wonderful illustration of the gospel - of the God who speaks the gospel word which raises up the spiritually dead to spiritual life.

### **B. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO PHYSICAL DEATH**

"He who believes in me will live, even though he dies....."

Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body. What Jesus is saying here, is that for the Christian believer death is not the end but the entrance into a gloriously new beginning.

### **C. JESUS IS THE ANSWER TO ETERNAL DEATH**

"And whoever lives and believes in me will never die...."

Eternal death is the separation of the body and soul from God, forever. In other words - eternal death is hell. The Christian believer will never experience this death. See Rom 8 v38 - 39. Key Question (v25b) - "Do you believe this?"

## **3. JESUS - AND HIS CONFIRMATORY SIGN**

Is this really true? Jesus showed that it is by raising Lazarus from the dead.