

# Resurrection & Life

## GOSPEL OF JOHN SUMMER SERIES

Job 19:25-27 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 Verses from John about Life

August 15, 2021

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In The Gospel of John, Jesus works miracle after miracle in hopes that people will see the miracle and **believe His Word**. In fact, in the Gospel of John, miracles are not called *miracles*, they are called “**signs**” --> signs that point to Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God; signs that prove His Word is true and trustworthy.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus changes water into wine; He heals a lame man, a blind man, and a sick boy. Jesus miraculously feeds 5000 people, and He walks on water. Still the Jews do not believe, and especially the leaders of the Jews.

So the last miracle Jesus performs is right outside the city gates of Jerusalem! Many people will see it, and it will be the talk of the town! That miracle is the raising of Lazarus from the dead!

Lazarus had been dead for four days; he had not fainted, nor was he unconscious. **He was dead. He was buried.** His family and a large number of Jews from Jerusalem were grieving and mourning for him.

Jesus arrives; He grieves and mourns Himself, and then He raises Lazarus from the dead! It is a *fantastic miracle* that proves that He is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **His Word is true!**

Right away the story reminds us that we are all like Lazarus --> we will all die someday. We will die because of sin in our lives. Sin is rebellion against God; it destroys us both physically and spiritually. It warps our thinking and damages our emotions. God’s punishment for sin is death; we all have sinned therefore we all will die someday. It is a cold and hard truth that we cannot escape.

Someday, we will be in a grave like Lazarus was. Death is our enemy, and unwelcome intruder into God's good Creation.

When Jesus, the *Creator of all life*, arrives at Lazarus' tomb, He grieves and mourns. There are **three words** that are used to describe Jesus' grieving and mourning:

1. *Anger* is His first reaction. Jesus is *angry* that death took His friend. God is *angry* that death destroys His good creation. The word that's used to describe Jesus is emphatic: *Jesus, the Son of God is furious; He is outraged; He is extremely angry about death.* He certainly understands when you are *angry* when a loved one dies as well. Death is not our friend; death is our enemy that brings only destruction and separation into our lives. *Anger* is Jesus' first reaction at the grave of Lazarus.
2. The second word to describe Jesus' grieving in this story is *Brokenhearted*. Jesus is sad, He is heartbroken: his friend Lazarus has died. Death is a heavy burden; sorrow is painful. Jesus knows the emptiness that death brings. Jesus knows the separation from our loved ones that death brings. Jesus certainly understands when you are *brokenhearted and empty* at times of death. At Lazarus' grave, Jesus was *Brokenhearted*.
3. Finally, it says Jesus shed *Tears*. He cried. He wept. The Son of God *in His flesh* had tears streaming down His face because his friend Lazarus was dead. Jesus, the Lord of all, the Creator of all life, shed tears of sorrow, grief and mourning at the death of His friend Lazarus. Jesus is with you and He understands when you shed tears and weep at a death of a loved one. Jesus has been there -- He shed tears, He was broken hearted, and He was angry as He stood on the edge of His friend's tomb.

Sin may have brought death into the world;  
and it is our enemy that brings destruction, pain, and separation;  
But death is not the last word!

**Christ, the Son of God, has overcome death!**

Jesus' own death and resurrection destroys death and brings eternal life to all people! Jesus, the Lord of all, has overturned death and He brings life! Jesus,

the Creator of all life, has conquered the devil who holds the power over death. When Jesus rose from the dead on the Third Day He brought eternal life into the world for all of us. The Easter celebration is that because Jesus lives, you too shall live! In Christ you will live forever, in Christ you have eternal life! *Believe His Word and promises!*

The story of Lazarus is really our story ... Not just in death, but more importantly in life! what happened to Lazarus will happen to us! just as Jesus stands at the edge of Lazarus' tomb and calls his name, and He gives him life; so too the Lord Jesus gives you life by the power of His Word! He gives you eternal life!

The Bible teaches us to think about eternal life in two ways.

The first is *spiritual life*, and the second is *resurrected life*.

*Spiritual life* is faith. In the waters of Holy Baptism you were born again of water and the Spirit! "Born again" is a life image. You were "born again" and given new life, not born of your mother a second time, but this time born of God! You were given life that will never end! That's *spiritual life*.

You were born into this world without faith, without trust in God, and dead in sin. This is the doctrine of Original Sin. But in Christ, you were "born" a second time; this time by God in the water of Baptism, and you were given eternal life. You were given faith. This is *spiritual life*. Through faith in Christ, have eternal life right now. As far as God is concerned, you have already crossed over from death into life through faith in Jesus.

It is true that someday you will die, your body will stop working, and they will have a funeral for you. But your physical death is simply the doorway to the Kingdom of Heaven. Your spirit will continue to live *uninterrupted* with Christ in heaven. That's *spiritual life*. That is a gift that comes with faith. That is the result of being born again in Holy Baptism. You have *spiritual life* right now, and **physical death** cannot interrupt it!

The second way the Bible teaches us to think about eternal life is concerning our body on the Last Day. This is *resurrected life*. When Jesus returns on the Last Day, on Judgment Day, one of the things that will happen is the Resurrection of the dead. Your dead body will rise from the grave physically! God will glorify it, reunite it with your soul, and you will live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven in both body and soul! This is *resurrected life*. We confess this in the Creeds when we say we believe in the “*resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.*” Jesus promises that *an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come out (John 5)*; and today we heard in that Old Testament book of Job, *I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes--I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

The resurrection of **dead bodies** is what the story of Lazarus is all about. His **dead body PHYSICALLY** came back to life. On Easter Sunday, Jesus’ **dead body PHYSICALLY** came back to life. On the Last Day, your **dead body** will **PHYSICALLY** come back to life! This is *resurrected life*.

This is also our **hope**, our *confident faith* in the promises of God. The promises of God are based on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead in the Third Day. If the Lord Jesus can raise Lazarus’ body from the dead, **He can raise your body from the dead!** If Jesus can raise His own body from the dead, **He can raise your body from the dead!** That’s His promise to you! On the Last Day, your **dead body** will **PHYSICALLY** come back to life! This is *resurrected life*.

Jesus raised Lazarus so that you would trust His Word and promises! If Jesus can raise the dead then all His Word and promises are true also! His word can do what it says it will do! If Jesus can raise Lazarus from the dead, and Himself from the dead, then He can raise you from the dead as well!

Trust His promises about eternal life!

Believe the Word of Jesus. He is faithful and His Word is true! He keeps every single **promise** that He makes! And He **promises** that you have *spiritual life* right now; and He gives you the confident hope of *resurrected life* later!

Jesus said, *I am the resurrection and the life he who believes in me though he dies yet shall he live; and whoever lives and believes in me Sean never die!* Amen!