

Lessons from the Gospel of John (10): The Need of the Dead—Life's Resurrecting

Bible reading

You may find it helpful to also read the entire case found in John 11:1-57.

John 11:17, 23-25

17 Then when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.

23 Jesus said to her, Your brother will rise again.

24 Martha said to Him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection in the last day.

25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live.

Introduction

In this final case in John chapter 11, we see an example of the principle of changing death into life found in chapter 2. In this case Lazarus had died and needed the resurrection life of the Lord. However, this chapter also shows that human opinions are the greatest frustration to the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus. Positively, this case also reveals that we can positively cooperate with this resurrection life.

Bible study reading

Please prayerfully read through the following portions of ministry related to this lesson.

In 11:1-4 we see the dead and his need. Lazarus was not only sick but also dead (11:14). Thus, he did not need healing but resurrecting. In the Lord's salvation He does not merely heal the sick; He also gives life to the dead. So He remained two days until the sick one had died (11:6). The Lord does not reform people or regulate them; He regenerates people and raises them out of death. Hence, the first of the nine cases is on regeneration and the last is on resurrection, revealing that all of the different aspects of Christ as life to us, as unveiled in the other seven cases, are in the principle of regeneration and resurrection. This last case is the actual changing of death into life. (*Life-study of John*, msg. 23, section 1)

We must see one point here. The point is that the Lord was able to raise up Lazarus from death. However, He could not do anything because He was continually frustrated by human opinions. He was frustrated by those opinions until the time came when they were subdued. Eventually, Martha was subdued with a certain amount of submission. The Lord has the resurrection life, the resurrection power, but it needs our cooperation. It needs our submission. What is our submission? It is simply the giving up of our opinion. You must forsake your opinion and allow the Lord to speak. When He tells us, "Move this stone," we should simply move it. We must submit, cooperate, and coordinate with Him. We need to submit to His word, cooperate with Him, and coordinate with the resurrection power. Why did the Lord, who was able to raise the dead, not remove the stone by Himself? Because His resurrection power requires our cooperation. (*Life-study of John*, msg. 23, section 4)

We must learn how to apply this resurrection life day by day. We must not only live by the Lord as life, but we must also conquer by the Lord as resurrection. Many times our circumstances affect us like death. But praise the Lord that all matters which contain the touch of death are a test because these matters prove whether or not the Lord is the resurrection. Nothing can confine us, for we have the Lord as our resurrection life. Regardless of the pressure or trouble we are bearing, we can stand it because we have resurrection life. According to 11:25, the Lord did not say that we will not die, but that we will prove to the whole universe that the Lord in whom we believe is the resurrection! (*Life-study of John*, msg. 24, section 1)

Going deeper

Please read or listen to these materials for an in-depth study of this lesson.

Further reading:

[*Life-study of John*, msg. 23](#)

Radio broadcast link:

Broadcast 28, [*The Need of the Dead—Life's Resurrecting \(1\) & \(2\)*](#)

Footnotes from Recovery Version of the New Testament:

John 11:8, footnote 1

John 11:14, footnote 1

Questions for personal or corporate study:

References in brackets indicate readings or broadcasts that may be helpful in answering the questions.

- How do human opinions frustrate the resurrection life of the Lord? (*Life-study of John*, msg. 23, section 2)
- In contrast to the frustration of human opinions, how can we cooperate with the resurrection life?
- Reviewing the past Bible studies, summarise the nine cases in the Gospel of John by explaining what the need of man is in each case and the specific way that the Lord's life meets this need. (Radio broadcast 28)

Next week

An Introduction to Life and Building

This is the last of the nine cases found in the Gospel of John from chapters 3 to 11. In all the lessons so far, we have seen that the Lord as life is able to meet the need of man's every case. Next week's lesson will return to John chapter 1 to present a second great item found in the Gospel of John. Not only does the Gospel of John present the matter of life, but it also presents building. Life *and* building are not only the structure and main thought of the Gospel of John, but life and building are consistently found throughout the entire Bible.

Works Cited

Lee, Witness. *Life-study of John*. Anaheim: Living Stream Ministry, 1985. www.ministrybooks.org

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