

One of the most profound reflections on life comes in John 11, when Jesus and Martha are discussing death and life. Martha complains to Jesus that he could have prevented Lazarus's death, but didn't. Jesus comforts her by saying, "Your brother will rise again" (11:23). Martha assumes that Jesus is talking about a day of resurrection (e.g. Dan 12:2) where Lazarus and all the other righteous ones will awake from their sleep to everlasting life. Jesus challenges her thinking and her assumptions about life and resurrection by boldly stating: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live" (11:25–26). This is quite an unusual expression, even for Jesus! Jesus draws Martha's attention away from death, and even away from the hope of resurrection, and he directs her to himself as the embodiment of the power and vitality of God's salvation. For Jesus to say "I am the resurrection" is quite profound, because Martha did not have to wait until the day of resurrection—all of her hopes could turn to joy in the presence of Jesus. Interestingly, the only two mentions of "resurrection" (anastasis) in the Gospel of John appear in this passage (11:24–25). While Jesus no doubt affirms that a mass resurrection event would happen someday in the future (John 5:28–29), it is far more comforting and important to recognize the experience of LIFE in the presence of the living Jesus Christ—something Christians later experience through the Advocate, the Spirit of Christ (John 14:16).

PRAYER: Sing the song - I've got a river of Life flowing out of me, it makes the lame to walk and the blind to see, it opens prison doors sets the captives free. I've got a river of Life flowing out of me.

May the streams of the Holy Spirit OVERFLOW from your life. God told Abraham that he would bless him and that in turn, all the nations of the world would be blessed through Abraham. As a child of Abraham through faith, you are BLESSED to be a Blessing. [Declare that] The same spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in you. May that life giving Spirit flow through you to bless everyone you meet.

B.L.E.S.S.

B - Begin in prayer. Pray for family, friends and people who don't know Christ in your circle. Pray for every house around you and the community.

L - LISTEN to their stories, their spiritual journey, their needs. Jesus constantly asked questions and listened.

E - EAT. Practice hospitality by having coffee, lunch or inviting them over for a meal. As you eat a meal together you move from being an acquaintance to a friend.

S - SERVE then by helping them and meeting their needs. Remember Jesus did not come to be served but to serve.

S - SHARE your story. Proclamation of the gospel is important but it doesn't have to be first... You don't have to start with your story first.

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