

John 11:17-27, 38-53 ESV

# JESUS Is Our Lifeline!

Services: Sunday, 4/2 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 4/3 at 7 PM

Church Year: Fifth Sunday in Lent – 2017

**Wednesdays of Lent: Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6**

**Introduction**: Dear friends: Imagine you  
 ♣have fallen overboard, ♣cannot swim,  
 and ♣are about to physically die; you  
**NEED** a *physical lifeline!* Even worse,  
*our sins have made us spiritually dead,*  
 so we **NEED** JESUS – *our spiritual lifeline!*



Today, in *John 11*, Jesus was informed that Lazarus, *his friend who lived in Bethany*, was very sick – *but Jesus delayed in going to see him*. Whenever timing issues frustrate us, let us ✓be patient, ✓trust the LORD, and ✓know He has a plan!

1. **The Setting**: **17** Now when Jesus came [to where Lazarus lived], he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup> So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. // “The days of deep mourning lasted for seven days” (Kretzmann, NT I:472), so Jesus arrived during that time. Sometimes when others die, we think about our own mortality: Now we live, but certainly we will die; then what?

2. **The Conversation:** <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died [You could have healed him].” <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you [You could raise him].” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day [John 5:28-29].” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” ... //

- a. “...the resurrection and the life” – Jesus is our lifeline, so **He** is everyone’s source of physical life, **He** will raise all people when He returns, and **He** is the only source of eternal life!
- b. “Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live” – Believe—*spiritual life*; die—*physical death*; and live—*raised to physical life* (unbelievers will be raised, *but to punishment*).
- c. “...everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die” – If, *while physically alive*, we believe in Jesus; then, *even when we physically die*, we keep living spiritually, *thus we never die!* By the Holy Spirit *Martha believed such things*; do you?

In vv. 33-37, Mary and many others were weeping; now, *as we move toward the miracle*, Dr. Kretzmann wrote that Jesus, “**the Source and Champion of life, here went forth to meet the enemy of life [thus, the devil] and to tear his prey from him**” (NT 1:474).

3. **The Miracle:** <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days [*earlier, she seemed confident that Jesus could raise her brother, but now she seems to be wavering*]." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory [*thus, the power*] of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes [*toward heaven, to the location of His Father*] and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." <sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, <sup>46</sup> but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. // Last Sunday, the man healed of his blindness spoke of the connection between Jesus and God (John 9:31-33); today, Jesus wanted everyone present to know about that connection! Then, with dead Lazarus now being alive, Jesus had done one of His greatest miracles; Lazarus had been dead and decomposing for four days, *but now alive and walking!* The results: Many believed in Jesus unto life eternal – *He became their lifeline*, but some rejected Jesus unto death and torment – *not wanting Him as their lifeline!*

4. **The Prophecy:** <sup>47</sup> **So the chief priests and the Pharisees** *[two groups who normally opposed each other]* gathered the Council *[the Sanhedrin]* and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” *[Why? They imagined that Jesus would lead a rebellion; then the Romans would come, destroy the city, and take many captive.]* <sup>49</sup> **But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. <sup>50</sup> Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” <sup>51</sup> He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. <sup>53</sup> So from that day on they made plans to put him to death. // God the Father is always in control, so *the prophecy came from Him*; it made sense to the Jewish leaders, *but it especially advanced God’s plan to save the world through Jesus!* He is the **Just One**, He died for all of the **unjust ones** – *including you and me* – in order to remove their sins and *be their eternal lifeline!***

**Conclusion:** Let us pray: Dear Holy Spirit, enable each of us to see how everything good – *for this life and forever* – is in connection with Jesus, *our lifeline!* Then, *keep us sorry for our sins and trusting in Jesus!* In His name we pray...