

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

The Gospel of John

John 11:38–54

Review John 11:17–37. Read John 11:38–44.

1. John tells us the purposes behind the sickness, death and resurrection of Lazarus. What are they? (vv. 4, 15, 25, 40, 42b, 45b)

2. As Jesus comes to the tomb, John tells us he is “once more deeply moved” (v. 38). This phrase does not refer to sadness; instead it refers to “deep-seated anger.”¹ What do you think causes this intense emotional response?

3. What is Martha’s response to Jesus’ instruction to take away the stone? (v. 38)

What does this reveal about what she believes?

How does Jesus respond to her? (v. 40)

4. Why does Jesus audibly thank God? (v. 42b)

5. What happens when Jesus calls Lazarus out from the tomb? (v. 44)

6. John does not describe how Mary and Martha respond when their brother is restored to them; nor does he comment on how Lazarus feels. Why do you think John leaves this out (consider again the purpose of Lazarus’ resurrection)? (vv. 4, 40; Jn. 20:30–31)

¹ Grant Osborne, *The Gospel of John*. Cornerstone Biblical Commentary. (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2007), 171.

Read John 11:45–54.

7. What two different responses does this event produce among the Jews? (vv. 45–46)

8. The chief priests and Pharisees (the Sanhedrin) meet to discuss the miracle of Lazarus' resurrection.
 - a. What do they fear will happen if Jesus continues to perform miraculous signs? (v. 48)

 - b. What does this fear reveal about them and their belief system?

 - c. What would have been an appropriate response to someone who has just raised a man from the dead?

9. What does Caiaphas the high priest propose to solve the “problem” of Jesus? (vv. 49–50)

10. Caiaphas believes that the death of Jesus will save the Jewish nation from the Romans, but how does Caiaphas unwittingly speak the truth about Jesus and his death? (vv. 49–51)

11. Who else will Jesus die for? (v. 52; Jn. 1:29)

12. What impact do the decisions of the Sanhedrin have on the life of Jesus? (v. 54)

13. It would be easy to come away from this passage thinking that the Sanhedrin is the “enemy.” But Jesus' intense anger at the tomb of Lazarus shows that the true enemy is death.
 - a. How will Jesus ultimately defeat death? (Acts 2:22–24)

 - b. Why is Jesus' resurrection so important? (1 Cor. 15:17–26)