

Word notes Sunday 25/4/10 Tony Hodge
Jesus: The Resurrection and the Life

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: John 11:1-44

Theme: Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life NOW as well as at the last day

Aim: To live for Christ

Jesus had brought dead people back to life before this, why is this occasion different? Because the people hadn't seen who he really was – they either laughed or said he was a great prophet (true but not the full story).

The clue is in Jesus reasoning for delaying when he heard the news that Lazarus was very ill verses 4 and 14. When Jesus arrives he is “deeply moved in spirit and troubled” NIV or “a deep anger welled up in him” The Message. Any of us would be deeply moved at the death of a close friend, we may even be angry if we felt robbed of that person “before their time”. Jesus being fully human will have had similar feelings, yet his anger may also have been an expression of his very reason for coming – to save the world and all those who would call on his name from the finality of death.

But the big message for Martha and the rest of us too is that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life – here and now, not just at the Last Day (v25,26). In the message the immediate and present is rendered as “You don't have to wait for the end. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life”.

Jesus asked Martha – “Do you believe this” and still even to today just as he is the eternal I Am he asks us the same question.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Read verses 21 - 27. How might Martha's faith be growing? Look at the passage verse by verse in this way and suggest what kind of miracle needed at each step:

- v21 – Martha believes Jesus could have prevented Lazarus from dying (Answer – healing)
- v22 – Even so Jesus can do anything (Answer – anything in her understanding)
- v24 – She knows Lazarus will rise at the Last Day (Answer – life after death, but at the end)
- v25 – whoever dies shall live (Answer – as verse 24)
- v27 – what does Martha believe? (Answer – Jesus is the Christ, the saviour)

Do you think Martha fully grasped what is about to happen?

What about you? If the list above is like a scale of increasing faith (1, healing, 2, small miracle limited to our earthly expectations, 3, life after death, 4, life for the dead now) where are you? Be honest – this is not a test but a chance to ask God for more.

Discuss this last question – for instance are you at 4 for yourself, 2 for you family but not even 1 for your unsaved friends? How does this affect the way you relate to these people for instance when they share problems?

Prayer:

In pairs come before the Lord and respond to his voice – is he calling you out of a “grave” where faith is absent or weak in an area of your life and needs to grow – respond by asking forgiveness that you've not lived your life for him in that area and ask for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you as you step out.

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Now that the weather should be turning it's a good time to reach out to others – BBQs, picnics etc maybe cutting grass for neighbours. What can the Cell do to help foster relationships and share the gospel