AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP - BIBLE STUDY
Study Series: That You May Believe: A Journey through the Gospel of John
Part 18: I am the Resurrection and the Life: Glory through delay, Victory Over Death
Wednesday, June 3, 2026
Text: John 11:1-44 **Teacher: Pastor Genevieve Kumapley**

Key verse: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.'" (John 11:25 NIV)

Purpose for this study:
This study explores how Jesus reveals His power, compassion, and divine timing through the story of Lazarus. It helps us understand that delays are not denials, that Jesus meets us in our pain, and that He has authority and power over every impossible situation. It also shows us that the life Jesus offers is both present and eternal.

1. Glory Through Delay (John 11:1–16)

Mary and Martha who were very good friends of Jesus (Mark 14:3; Luke 7:38; John 12:3) send word to Jesus that Lazarus is sick. Although Jesus loves them deeply, He delays going to them. This delay is intentional and designed to reveal God's glory. Jesus explains that the situation will ultimately glorify God, even though it appears painful and confusing in the moment. This reminds us that God's timing is purposeful and what feels like delay to us is often preparation in God's plan.

- "*When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.'"* (John 11:4)
- *"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28 NLT*

Question 1: Can you share a time when you experienced delay or where in your life are you experiencing delay, and how might God be working for a greater purpose?

2. Faith in the Middle of Disappointment (John 11:17-27)

Martha expresses both disappointment and faith when she meets Jesus. She believes He could have healed Lazarus, yet she still trusts Him in verse 21; Jesus responds with a significant and important truth:

"I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25) He shifts her focus from the situation to Himself. **What this teaches us that our faith must be rooted in who Jesus is, not just in what He does.**

- *The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone*." John 1:4 NLT
- *"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory." Colossians 3:1-4 NLT*
- *"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NLT*

Question 2: In what areas of your life do you need to trust who Jesus is, even when you do not understand what He is doing?

3. Jesus Meets Us in Our Pain (John 11:28–37)

Mary comes to Jesus' grieving, and Jesus responds with compassion. (verse 35). Even though He knows He will raise Lazarus, He weeps with those who are mourning. This reveals the attribute and character of Jesus as compassionate friend and brother ; who is not distant from our pain. He enters it with us.

- *"For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but One who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as we are, yet without [committing any] sin." Hebrews 4:15 AMP*
- "If your heart is broken, you'll find God right there; if you're kicked in the gut, he'll help you catch your breath." Psalms 34:18 MSG

Question 3: How does it change your perspective to know that Jesus shares in your pain?

4. Confronting the Impossible (John 11:38–44)

At the tomb, Jesus commands that the stone be removed. Despite objections, the stone is moved, and Jesus calls Lazarus out of the grave. This moment demonstrates that Jesus has authority over death and every impossible situation. It also shows that God sometimes asks for our obedience before He reveals His power.

- *"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you." Romans 8:11 NIV*
- *""Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."1 Corinthians 15:55-57 NIV*

Question 4: What situation in your life feels impossible, and what step of faith is God asking you to take?

5. From Life to Freedom (John 11:44)

Lazarus comes out alive but still bound in grave clothes. Jesus instructs others to remove them so that Lazarus can walk freely. This demonstrates that while Jesus gives us new life instantly, growth and freedom often happen over time.

- *"You were dead… but God made us alive with Christ."* Ephesians 2:1–5
- *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV*

Question 5: What "grave clothes" might still be limiting believers from experiencing their freedom in Christ?

6. Living in Resurrection Power Today

The life Jesus gives is not only for the future rather it is active now. It calls for believers live with resurrection power through the Holy Spirit.

- *"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection."* Philippians 3:10
- *"His incomparably great power for us who believe…"* Ephesians 1:19–20
- *"The mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace."* Romans 8:6

Question 6. How can you intentionally live in the power of the resurrection this week?

7. Eternal Life Begins Now

Eternal life is not just something we wait for rather it begins the moment we believe in Jesus. John 3:16

- *"Whoever hears My word and believes…has eternal life…"* John 5:24
- *"God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son."* 1 John 5:11–12

In conclusion:
"When Jesus says, 'I am the resurrection and the life,' He is declaring that He is the source of all life (John 1:4), the conqueror of death (Romans 8:10-11), the giver of new spiritual life (Ephesians 2:1–5), and the power working within us today (Ephesians 1:19–20). This means that even now, we can live with hope, purpose, and victory because His life is in us.