

*Christian Believers
of Donelson*

The Life of Christ

“Sickness, Death, Burial & Resurrection”

Reading: John 11:1-46

Features of the chapter

- It contains the shortest verse in all the Bible –
“Jesus wept.” 11:35
- It contains the 7th of seven recorded “Signs” or “Miracles” of the Lord Jesus in John
- It contains the 5th of seven “I AM” statements of the Lord Jesus in John:

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.” 11:25

- We have Christians in their Sickness, Death & Sorrow
- We have Christ with a message of Resurrection & Hope

Outline of the chapter

- v. 1-6 The Sisters: Their call for help
- v. 7-17 The Disciples: Their Inquiry & Instruction
- v. 18-19 The Neighbors: Their Presence & Comfort
- v. 20-27 Martha: Her Mind was Grappling
- v. 28-34 Mary: Her Heart was Aching
- v. 35-44 The Savior: He Wept, He Prayed, He Raised
- v. 45-46 The Jews: Some believed; some did not

Lessons of the chapter

1. **Sickness and Death both have one source: SIN**

First Mention of Sickness in Bible is Genesis 48:1

“One told Joseph, ‘Behold, thy father is sick’”

The word means *Disease, Infirmary, Malady, Sickness.*

This is the common lot of humanity, Christians included.
And this was Martha and Marys’ experience.

With sickness comes *uncertainty & helplessness.*

With death comes *finality & despair* – unless the person who has died was **SAVED.**

Lessons of the chapter

2. Death is a Reality – Are you ready to die?

*“To lose one’s Wealth is much, To lose one’s Health is more
But to lose one’s Soul is such a cost, As no man can restore.”*

Lazarus was someone who was **ready to die**.

He had no fear of where he would be, should his sickness lead to death.

How so? Faith *in* Christ. Love *to* Christ. Life lived *for* Christ.

In Genesis 2:17 the reality of death is sounded: “**surely**”

In Genesis 5:5 the actuality of death is recorded: “**and he [Adam] died.**”

Lessons of the chapter

3. When God appears to Delay, it is always with purpose

“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” v.4

“Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” v.5

“When He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.” v.6

Lessons of the chapter

4. The Death of a loved one brings Sorrow, Grief & Tears

- *It is NORMAL to grieve over the loss of a family member.*

Different family members react differently:

- *Martha & Mary both said the same thing, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.'*
- *Martha's mind added these words 'But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give You.'*
- *Mary's weeping added what words could not express – the sorrow of the loss that she had in her heart.*

Lessons of the chapter

5. The Promise of Resurrection brings Ultimate Comfort

The words of the Lord Jesus to Martha were:

- *“Your brother will rise again.” v.23*

Further words of the Lord Jesus to Martha were:

- *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.” v.25,26*
- Resurrection and life are found in a person. We can't afford to miss this!

Lessons of the chapter

6. “I am the Resurrection and the Life” – Points of Note

- Note *the order*. Resurrection **first**; life **second**. Why?

(a) Resurrection opens the gate to immortal life

- Note *the present*. “**I am** the resurrection and the life.”
Not “I was” or “I will be.”

(b) Resurrection is bedrock of the present for the believer

Lessons of the chapter

6. “I am the Resurrection and the Life” – Points of Note

- Jesus is the resurrection so note *the future*. “He who believes in Me, though he may die, **he shall live.**” v.25

(c) With Jesus, believers may die physically but live eternally

- Jesus is the life so note *the future*. “And whoever lives & believes in Me **shall never die.**” v.26

(d) With Jesus, believers living have no fear of second death

- Jesus is the resurrection & the life so note *the challenge*. “Do you believe this?”

(e) Life & believing are clearly linked. Do you have this life?

Lessons of the chapter

7. Raising of Lazarus from the dead

- The Command Given: *“Take away the stone”* v.39
- The Concern Raised: *“By this time he stinketh”* v.39
- The Savior Prayed: *“I thank you ... I know You always hear ... I said this, that they may believe”* v.41,42
- The Cry Made: *“Lazarus, come forth!”* v.43
- The Power Displayed: *“And he who **had died** came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth.”* v.44
- The Liberty Enjoyed: *“Loose him, and let him go.”* v.44