

**Sermon Notes – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
**‘I am, right now, Resurrection and Life’ (John 11:25 msg)**

Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter in 1789, ‘Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain except *death* and taxes’.

Ever since God judged Adam and Eve for their sin, death has plagued humanity. It snatches those we love and looms over all our lives like a menacing spirit. The Bible calls death our final enemy.

- What feelings do you have when you think about death?
- In John chapter 11, Jesus reaches out to a family struggling with the pain of death. He shows us why we need never fear death again. Read John 11: 1-44.
- How can we resolve the seeming conflict between Jesus’ love for Lazarus and his deliberate delay in helping him (v4-5, 15)?
  - What elements of doubt and faith do you see in Martha’s statement to Jesus v21/22 (notice her thinly veiled tone of accusation and disappointment)?
  - How does Jesus stretch Martha’s faith in this brief encounter?
  - Looking back, what experiences have really served to stretch your faith?
- Jesus makes this astonishing declaration; ‘I am the Resurrection and the Life’ and follows up this statement with an outcome: ‘Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die’ v25-26.
- What kind of ‘life’ and ‘death’ is Jesus referring to in each case?
  - Can you identify places or contexts that have a strong ‘odour’ (v39) of death?
  - How might the resurrection life of Jesus bring transformation to a place or person?
  - What difference does the Resurrection of Jesus make to your feelings about your own death (Romans 8:11)?
  - In what ways will this chapter change the way you respond to personal difficulty or the apparent delay of God?
  - How will it change the way you pray for those who are going through difficult situations?

**Prayer.** Talk to God about how you feel when he seems far away or unconcerned about you. Thank him that he never abandons you as his child and that you can trust him for this life and the next, because of who he is.

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