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REVIEW: Examining the eight I AM statements of Jesus – to get to know who HE is better.

- Am I believing/trusting Him for Who He says He is or who I think He should be?
 - Am I living my life in light of these truths?
- Last week: Jesus said “I AM the Good Shepherd” in John 10.

PREVIEW

- Today – we’re talking about when Jesus said, “**I AM the Resurrection and the Life**”.
- But before you can have a resurrection, something needs to have died.
- Look at how Jesus engages with this whole process – see if we can’t get some truths to hold onto for when we face different forms of death and difficulty in our lives.

Context of our passage today:

- Ch 10 – The Good Shepherd, One with Father, picking up stones to stone Him, leaving the area.
- Ch 11 – Lazarus, Jesus’ friend, gets sick and dies but Jesus raises Him from the dead.
- Ch 12 – Many believe but some still doubt and others, religious leaders plan to kill Jesus.

Jesus said, “I AM the Resurrection and the Life” (Jn 11:25)

1. God’s friends encounter challenges (Jam 1:2-4; 1 Pet 1:6; 4:12; Rom 5:3-5; 8:18; Matt 7:24-27)

John 11:5-6 (NLT) So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus,⁶ he stayed where he was for the next two days.

- The enemy wants us to believe that if we were really right with God, we wouldn’t face difficulties (lies)
- God has greater plans for our life than our comfort...His glory!

2. Death is not the end: God is Greater! (1 Cor 15:54-58; Rev 21:1-4; Isa 25:8; John 5:24)

John 11:11-13 (NLT) Then he said, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up.”¹² The disciples said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!”¹³ They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

- Death can bring such fear into our lives. It comes to us all. We can’t escape. We often see it as the end.
- Death is so temporary from God’s perspective, that Jesus describes it as sleeping.

3. Do you believe?

John 11:25-26 (NLT) Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

- Belief here, means to trust. To rely upon. Not just mental assent or understanding or agreement.
- God uses the hard times to get us to a place of trusting Him (v.15; Jam 1:2-4; Rom 5:3-5; 1 Pet 1:6)
- Will you believe/trust Him even when it seems like He should have done something else? Something better? (Prov 3:5-6; Isa 55:8-9)

4. When troubles come, God cares (1 Pet 5:7; Ps 56:8; Ps 23)

John 11: 33-35 (NLT) When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, [f] and he was deeply troubled.³⁴ “Where have you put him?” he asked them. They told him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Then Jesus wept.

- Sin and death anger our God because of how it hurts us and is so contrary to His design...LIFE!
- Jesus was in the moment of pain and suffering and grief with His friends even though He knew what was coming – it is ok for us to weep and grieve for our losses and to do so with those around us.

5. Resurrection!

John 11:37-44 (NLT) But some said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?” ...
⁴⁰ Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?” ... ⁴³ Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ And the dead man came out...

- It is normal to question God in the face of adversity and pain (book of Job).
- Our willingness to trust God through the difficulties will allow us to see His glory and goodness.
- Not all will move through the questioning to trust.

Practical Next Steps

1. If you haven’t yet, Accept Christ – become a disciple of His – trust Him!
2. When you face trials, remember God cares for you, is with you and is greater than the trial.
3. Who is someone you know that is going through a hard time? Reach out and encourage them.
4. Don’t give up!

For Small Group Discussion: What stood out to you most from the message?

Opening Question: What is a fun thing you hope to be able to do or have in Heaven?

Main Point: Death is not the final word for those in Christ. There is no resurrection apart from Christ, and there is no eternal life apart from Christ.

Main Scripture: John 11:1-27 (Additional Scripture: John 11:25, 1 John 5:11-12, 1 Corinthians 15:53-57)

Questions:

1. What did the sisters expect from Jesus?
2. Why do you think Jesus waited before going to Lazarus?
3. Jesus didn’t respond right away to their request. When in your life has God not responded in your preferred timeline?
4. How has your faith in Jesus changed your perspective about death?
5. What does knowing your eternal destination change about the way you live in the present?
6. Who do you know that needs to know Jesus as the resurrection and the life?

Tips and Resources: *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn