

Sermon • Rev. Kyle Parker

Introduction

- Bethany is less than 2 miles from Jerusalem, so His disciples' anxiety highlighted by Thomas

saying, "Let's go to die with Jesus," is well-founded, not hyperbole.

I) Jesus' moves — He reaches us. (17-20)

- Why 4 days? Milne: Jewish superstition held that for three days after death, the deceased

soul 'hovered' around seeking re-entry. On the 4th day, it left.

- Jesus fulfills prophetic expectation while simultaneously addressing error and superstition

within the crowds. He is still at work liberating us from our errors!

II) Jesus' mercy — He restores us. (21-24)

- Martha beautifully engaged with Jesus! Her remarkable faith notes his ability to save

through his intimate relationship with God the Father.

- I don't take Martha's statement that Jesus could have prevented Lazarus' death as a rebuke

but an honest confession of her faith in Jesus' power.

III) Jesus' might — He resurrects us. (25-27)

- "I am resurrection and life." Jesus fulfills the longing in Hosea 6 and Ezekiel 37.

- "I am the bread of life." (6) Jesus is eternal nourishment.

- "I am the light of the world." (8) Jesus leads us to promised glory.

- "I am 'I AM.'" (8) Jesus is God who met Moses at the burning bush.

- "I am the good shepherd." (10) Jesus fulfills Mosaic and Davidic hope.

- Resurrection and life: we rarely overstate Christ's sacrifice, but we easily understate Christ's

active presence and authority over life's circumstances.

Conclusion

- Look back over the "I am" statements made by Jesus and reflect on how they both comfort and

direct you within and through everything you will face in life.