

John 11: Martha's Confession
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John 11 contains the last of the seven miracles that Jesus performed before His death. It also contains the last of the Seven Life Promises:

1. Everlasting life to those who believe - John 3:15
2. Everlasting life from the Living Water - John 4:14
3. Everlasting life to those who believed - John 5:21
4. Everlasting life from the Bread of Life - John 6:58
5. Everlasting life by keeping His word - John 8:51
6. Abundant life by Jesus' coming - John 10:10
7. Life after death for those who believe - John 11:25

As we consider the events in John 11, we note that Jesus intentionally waited enough time to permit the death of Lazarus. It is clear that He dearly loves Lazarus and his family, and that His wait is so that the Glory of God can be revealed. As in John 9, this event has a specific purpose. Consider too that this is the first time a disciple has died. We will see that this is an important test of discipleship.

When Jesus and the disciples arrive, they meet Martha. Jesus declares to Martha that I AM statement: I am the Resurrection and the Life. Martha replies with her confession, one of seven confessions:

1. John the Baptist - John 1:34
2. Nathanael - John 1:49
3. Peter - John 6:69
4. The Blind Man - John 9:35
5. Martha - John 11:27
6. Thomas - John 20:28
7. The reader - John 20:31

Let us consider a moment the importance of the confession. Romans 10:8-11 speaks the confession of the Christian. We know that words have power. Consider the words "I do" in the marriage ceremony. Consider the words of Creation in Psalm 33:4-9. Jesus tells us that words expose the heart in Matthew 15:11-20. Confession is the ultimate power word(s); we know in John that words could get you thrown out of the synagogue (John 9); Paul remarks about the confession of the Pharisees in Acts 23:8.

The significance of the confession of Christ is in part the idea that you are now taking sides. In 1 Kings 18 Elijah rebuked Israel for not picking a side. Ultimately, they confessed Jehovah as God. Our good confession (1 Timothy 6:12) is a spiritual taking sides. It tells

the world of the identity of Jesus (Hebrews 3:1) in our lives, and where our hope lies (Hebrews 4:14, 10:23). With Martha, she was holding fast her confession as to make it clear what side she was on, and her hope in despair. She failed to see that Jesus WAS Resurrection

Making the Good Confession

The Good Confession can only come:

After hearing the Word

After believing the Word

Making the Good Confession

The Good Confession must be followed:

By (a commitment to) repentance

By baptism in water

By faithfulness