

Only two weeks until Easter and we now enter our last phase of this memorization project, **Exaltation**. My prayer is that as you have encountered Jesus in each of these phases, your heart has been challenged and your walk with Him has been strengthened. My husband always says that when we come into the presence of Christ, we should be changed. I wholeheartedly agree. So let's jump into our new section this week and look at our two verses.

John 11:25-26

As we finished our passages on the **Devotion** of Christ we saw Him devote Himself to suffering on our behalf but also rise to a place of great exaltation. I chose this passage in John for our verses on **Exaltation** because of the context. So... let's look at that a bit as we get started.

We find verses 25-27 (the entire passage for the Exaltation section) in the midst of an account that took place during the life of Jesus on earth. A friend of Jesus named Lazarus has died and his sisters, Martha and Mary, also friends of Jesus, are beside themselves with grief. When Jesus arrives on the scene, Lazarus has already been in the tomb four days. Martha, hearing that He is present, runs out to meet him and our verses are a part of their conversation. (It would be good for you to get out your Bible and read this entire account in John 11:1-44).

I love Martha's faith here. She tells Jesus, ***"If you had been here my brother would not have died, but I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."***

Jesus then tells her, ***"Your brother will rise again."***

Martha goes on to present her understanding of that and tells Jesus, ***"I know that he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day."*** Then comes our verses:

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though He dies. And whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?'"

Now the question may be in your mind, "why didn't I pick a verse or verses that are directly from the time that Jesus died and resurrected?" Here is your answer. I chose these verses because they are right in the middle of an ordinary human experience, the death of a family member of ordinary people just like you and me. In these verses Jesus steps in and shows the difference that His resurrection, His exaltation, will make. This is like a picture of the promises that are coming our way because of Christ's death and then resurrection on our behalf. Jesus goes on to literally raise Lazarus from the dead but before He does so He tells Martha who He is. And then he asks her a very important question, ***"Do you believe this?"***

That is a great place for us to focus this week, our belief. We know all of these things about Jesus, but do we believe to the point of it reaching in to our normal every day life experience and making a difference. Jesus is exalted through the resurrection but I love the picture here, in that a simple woman, in a town called Bethany, allowed Him to be exalted in her on that day. I guess the question for us as Jesus speaks to us this week about His resurrection is, "Do you believe this?"

O Lord, help me to believe. I want Your resurrection to make a difference in me today. I know that you have life for me, help me to believe in You, so that You can be exalted in me today

Believing,
Sharon Thomas