

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: Learn whether your reactions to what Jesus said, did or claimed to be are right or wrong.

Suggestion: The teacher lesson will call attention to some important truths to teach. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

Introduction: What do you think about Jesus Christ? Do you think He is God, someone created by God or a very good man? Do you think He knew exactly what was going to happen to Him when He died, or did He have fairly good idea of what was going to happen to Him? Do you think He is dead or alive today? If He is dead, do you believe He will live again? If he is alive, do you believe He is in a physical body or in a spiritual body? Your answers to these questions will determine how you will react to what Jesus said, did and claimed to be. We will see how others reacted to Jesus in John 11. Jesus asked the Jews, "What do you think about Christ? Whose Son is He?" (Mt 22:42).

How did the disciples react to Jesus? 11:1-16

When Jesus said, "Let us go into Judea again" (v. 7), the disciples reacted in two ways. At first they tried to stop Him, fearing for His safety and, no doubt, for their own. But when Jesus was not deterred, but was determined to go to Judea, Thomas reluctantly surrendered to Jesus' will and urged the others to go with Him and die with Him (vv. 15-16). **Have you ever reluctantly surrendered to the will of Jesus Christ, even though your heart was not in it?**

How did Martha react to Jesus? 11:17-27, 38-40

Martha met Jesus and said she believed that whatever He would ask of God, it would be given to Him (v. 22). He promised her, "Your brother will rise again." She said that she knew Lazarus would rise in the final resurrection. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believes in Me, though He were dead, yet shall He live." He repeated His promise that Lazarus would live again, but she did not understand that he would be alive that very day. When Jesus came to the cave, He asked that the stone be removed from the cave's entrance. Martha objected because Lazarus had been dead four days and his body would stink. Jesus told her earlier, "if you believe, you should see the glory of God." Then Martha must have believed, because Jesus called for Lazarus to come out and he did. **Martha's faith grew as she heard Jesus' words (Rom 10:17). How much has your faith grown since you received Christ?**

How did Mary react to Jesus? 11:28-37

Mary came to Jesus weeping (v. 33). She looked to Him for sympathy and comfort in her time of sorrow. He gave it to her more abundantly than she had expected. **Have you gone to Jesus with your cares and sorrows? He bids you to come (Mt 11:28-30; I Pet 5:7; Heb 4:14-16).**

How did Lazarus react to Jesus? 11:38-44

Lazarus had been dead for four days, but when he heard the command of Jesus to come out of his grave, he obeyed immediately. **It would be a different world if every believer, who is alive, always responded to the commands of Jesus as Lazarus did. Let us do our part.**

How did the Jews react to Jesus? 11:45-53; 12:9-11

When the Jews saw that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, there were two opposite reactions: many believed on Him, but others wanted to kill Him because they thought that they would lose their political power with Rome if Jesus became king. To the contrary, they would have been freed from Rome and every other nation if they had made Jesus their king. Instead, by rejecting Him, they lost their opportunity to be free from Rome. But even more important, they lost their opportunity to be free from sin and Hell. **Only those who believe on Jesus are set free. What have you done with Jesus?**