

Study Guide: Resurrection Sunday- "The Final I Am" and "Where's Your Focus"

April 5, 2026

This study guide is designed to review the core theological concepts and scriptural applications presented in the sermon "The Final I Am" and "Where's Your Focus," delivered on April 5, 2026. The materials focus on the resurrection of Lazarus, the exclusivity of Jesus Christ, and the necessity of shifting one's focus from worldly circumstances to the power of the Great I AM.

Part I: Short-Answer Quiz

1. According to the text, why did Jesus Christ purposely wait four days before traveling to Bethany after hearing of the death of Lazarus?
 2. How does the New Testament teaching on "sleep" regarding death differ from previous understandings or the perspectives of the disciples?
 3. Describe the reaction of "honest Thomas" when Jesus Christ announced the return to Bethany, and what does this reveal about the atmosphere near Jerusalem?
 4. What was the specific "erroneous teaching" or superstition prevalent in Jewish history that Jesus Christ addressed by timing the resurrection of Lazarus as He did?
 5. In her initial meeting with Jesus Christ, what distinction did Martha make between "healing" and "raising" in her expression of faith?
 6. What is the significance of Jesus Christ declaring "I AM" in the middle of a funeral setting?
 7. How does the speaker define the literal meaning of the word "resurrection" in the context of a believer's spiritual posture?
 8. What are the three specific roles of Jesus Christ mentioned regarding the creation and guarantee of life?
 9. According to the discourse on John 10:10, what does it mean to have life "more abundantly"?
 10. What specific favor does the speaker ask of the congregation regarding 1 Corinthians 15, and why is this chapter highlighted?
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Part II: Quiz Answer Key

1. Jesus Christ waited four days to ensure there was no doubt that Lazarus was truly dead. This was done to overcome the cultural superstition that a spirit lingered near the body for three days, thereby magnifying the miracle of His power.
2. The teaching introduced by Jesus Christ suggests that for a believer, death is merely "sleep," meaning it is a temporary state of separation rather than a permanent end. This teaching implies that because of the resurrection, the believer will eventually "wake up" to eternal life.
3. Thomas was "scared to death" because Bethany was only a few miles from Jerusalem, where people were actively seeking to stone Jesus Christ. He was resigned to their fate, famously stating, "Let us go also that we may die with Him."
4. There was a Jewish superstition at the time suggesting that when a person died, their spirit stayed with the body for three days. By waiting until the fourth day, when the body had begun to decay (or "stink"), Jesus Christ proved His absolute authority over death beyond any superstitious explanation.
5. Martha believed that Jesus Christ could have healed her brother Lazarus from his sickness while he was still alive, but she initially lacked the faith to believe He could raise him from the dead in the present moment. She relegated the resurrection to a "future" event at the last day, rather than seeing the power of Jesus Christ in the "here and now."
6. By declaring "I AM the resurrection and the life" at a funeral, Jesus Christ highlighted the exclusivity and uniqueness of His power. He shifted the focus from the sorrow of the event to His own divine identity, showing that He is the master of life even in the presence of death.
7. The term "resurrection" is defined as meaning to "re-erect" or to "stand up." The speaker explains that without Jesus Christ, a person is "horizontal" (spiritually flat on their back), but through Him, they become "vertical" and able to stand in His Spirit.
8. Jesus Christ is identified as the only Creator of physical life (making life in the womb), the Re-creator of dead spirits (enabling the "born again" experience), and the only one who can guarantee eternal life in Heaven.
9. To have life "abundantly" is defined as being "filled up." This suggests that a life lived in the will of Jesus Christ, after being spiritually reborn, is one of total fulfillment that far exceeds mere physical existence.
10. The speaker asks the congregation to spend ten minutes reading 1 Corinthians 15 slowly and carefully. This chapter is highlighted because it explains the mechanics of the resurrection and what happens to believers when they "fall asleep" versus those who remain "Christless."

Part III: Essay Questions

1. **The Theology of "Now":** Analyze how Jesus Christ attempted to shift Martha's focus from a futuristic or historical faith to a present-reality faith. How does the declaration "I AM" facilitate this shift?
2. **Exclusivity and Identity:** Discuss the significance of Jesus Christ's claim to exclusivity as presented in the sermon. Why is the "I AM" declaration considered the most important declaration regarding His unique nature?
3. **Physical vs. Spiritual Vitality:** Compare the concepts of physical life and spiritual life as described in the text. Use the examples of Adam, Eve, and Nicodemus to explain why physical life does not equate to spiritual life.
4. **Cultural Context and Miracle:** Explain how Jesus Christ used the specific cultural superstitions of His time to provide an undeniable proof of His divinity. Why was the "four-day" wait a strategic necessity for the ministry of Jesus Christ?
5. **The Role of Focus in the Christian Walk:** The speaker emphasizes that "everything Jesus Christ does for you after your salvation... is icing on the cake." Explore this statement in relation to the theme of focus. How does a singular focus on Jesus Christ change the way a believer views trials, grief, and daily life?

Part IV: Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Abundantly	Derived from a word meaning "to be filled up"; describes the quality of life Jesus Christ provides to those who live in His will.
Bethany	A small village or suburb located a few miles east of Jerusalem; the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.
Born Again	The process of spiritual rebirth as taught by Jesus Christ to Nicodemus; the transition from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive.
I AM	A divine declaration of exclusivity and self-existence used by Jesus Christ to identify Himself as the Resurrection and the Life.
Iniquity	Sin or lawlessness; described by the speaker as the state in which all humanity is conceived following the fall of Adam and Eve.
Lazarus	A friend of Jesus Christ who had been dead and entombed for four days before being raised back to life.

Ordinance	A symbolic practice of the church; specifically refers in this context to the Lord's Supper (communion).
Pharisaic Teaching	The theological beliefs of the Pharisees, which included a belief in the resurrection at the "last day."
Resurrection	To "re-erect" or "stand up"; the act of rising from the dead or being moved from a horizontal spiritual state to a vertical one in Christ.
Sadducees	A Jewish sect that, unlike the Pharisees, did not believe in the resurrection of the dead.
Sleep	The biblical term used by Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul to describe the temporary death of a believer.

Greek Word Reference and Pronunciation

The speaker references the underlying meanings of specific Greek concepts during the sermon to clarify the nature of life and resurrection.

- **Resurrection:** (Phonetic: *an-as-tas-is*) – Defined in the text as "to re-erect" or "to stand up." [^1]
- **Abundantly:** (Phonetic: *per-is-sos*) – Defined in the text as "to be filled up." [^2]

[^1]: This refers to the speaker's explanation that Jesus Christ causes a person who is "horizontal" to become "vertical." [^2]: This refers to the "more abundant" life mentioned in John 10:10, signifying a life of total fullness in the Spirit.