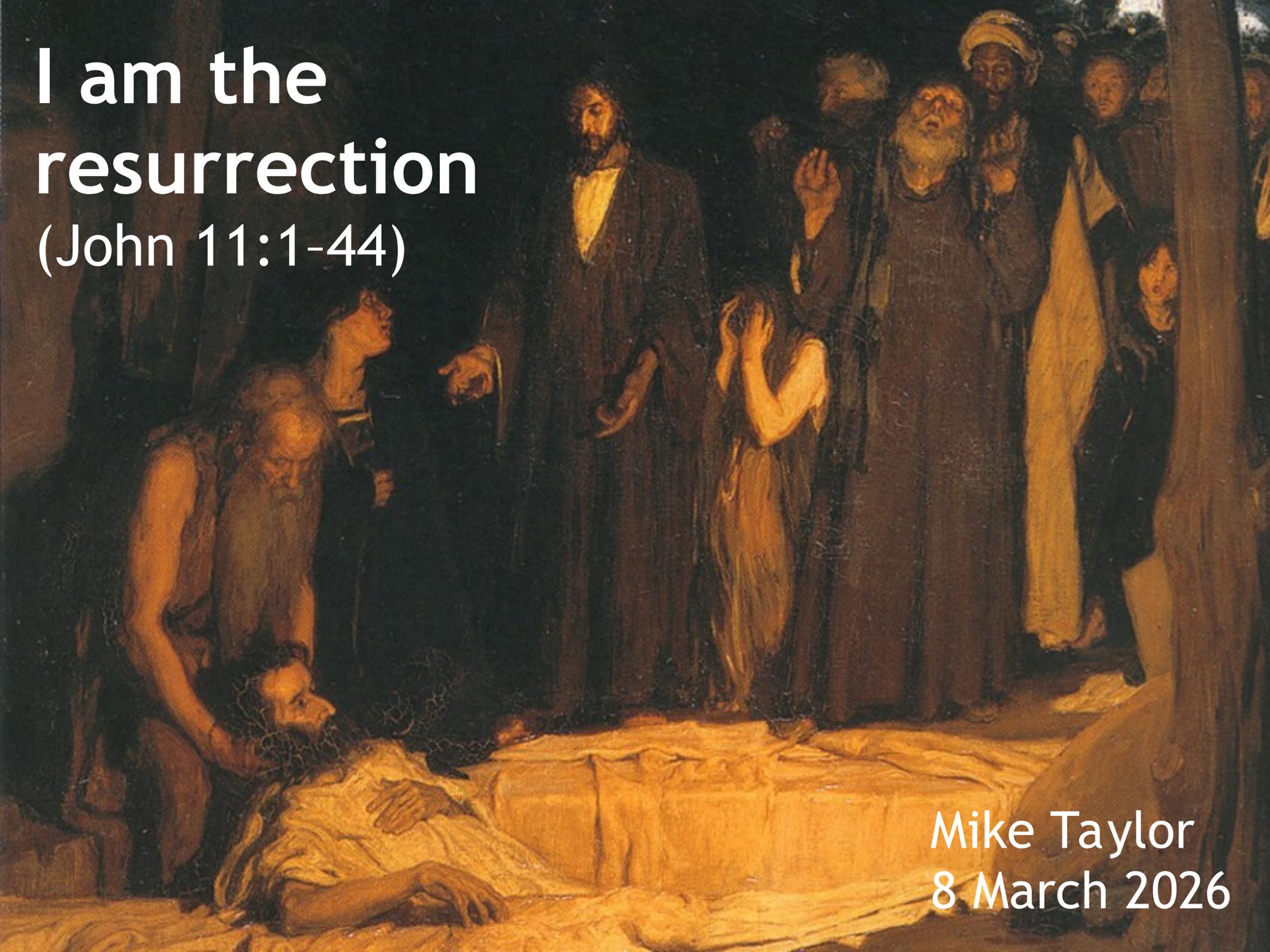


I am the resurrection

(John 11:1-44)



Mike Taylor
8 March 2026

The story of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

The story of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him.

The story of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

“Lord,” Martha said to 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 said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

The story of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

The story of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus wept.

The story of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said.

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Death is not permanent

“This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory, so that God's Son may be glorified through it.”

— verse 4.

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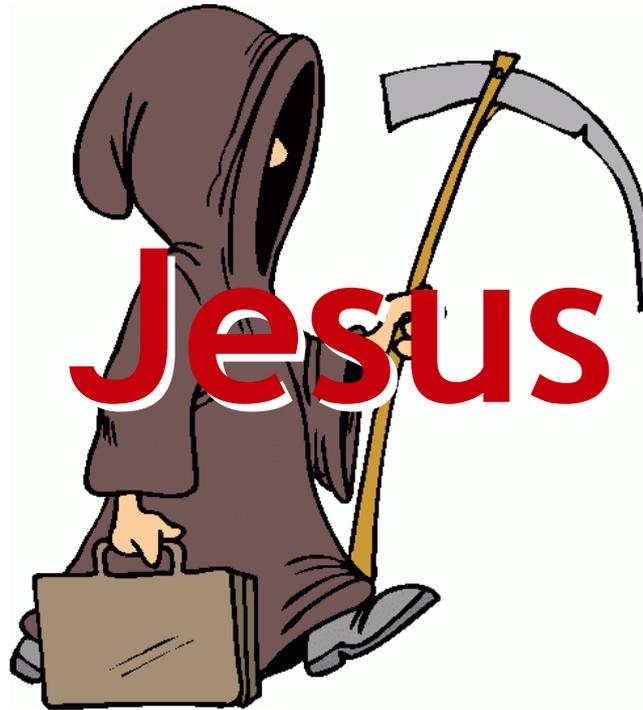


Death is not permanent

“This sickness will not end in death.
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— verse 4.

Was Jesus wrong?



Death is not permanent

“This sickness will not *end* in death.
No, it is for God's glory, so that God's
Son may be glorified through it.”

— verse 4.



Death is not permanent

**“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep;
But I am going there to wake him up.”
— verse 11.**

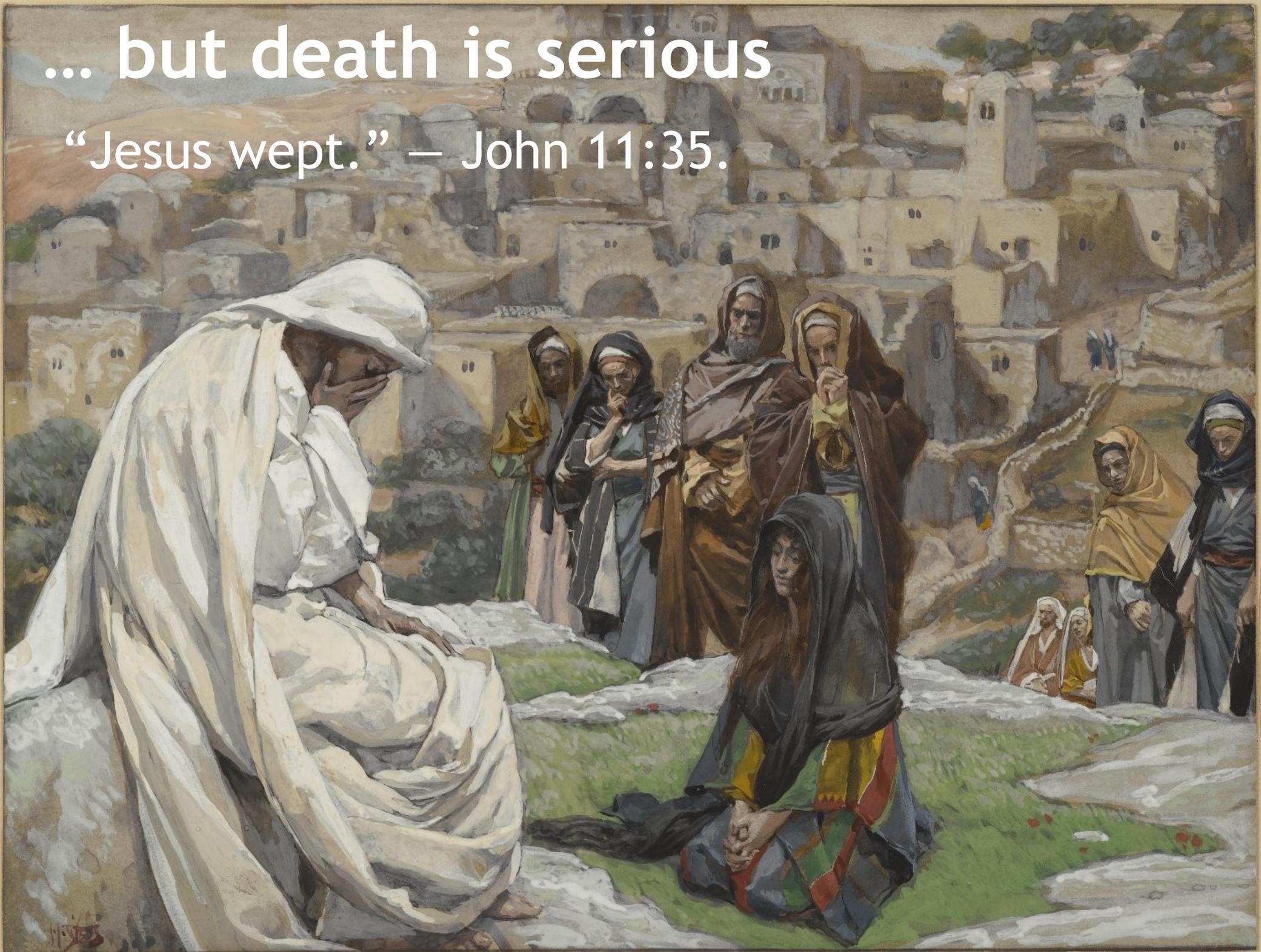
Death is not permanent

“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep;
But I am going there to wake him up.”
— verse 11.

“For we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus
those who have fallen asleep in him.”
— 1 Thessalonians 4:14, NIV.

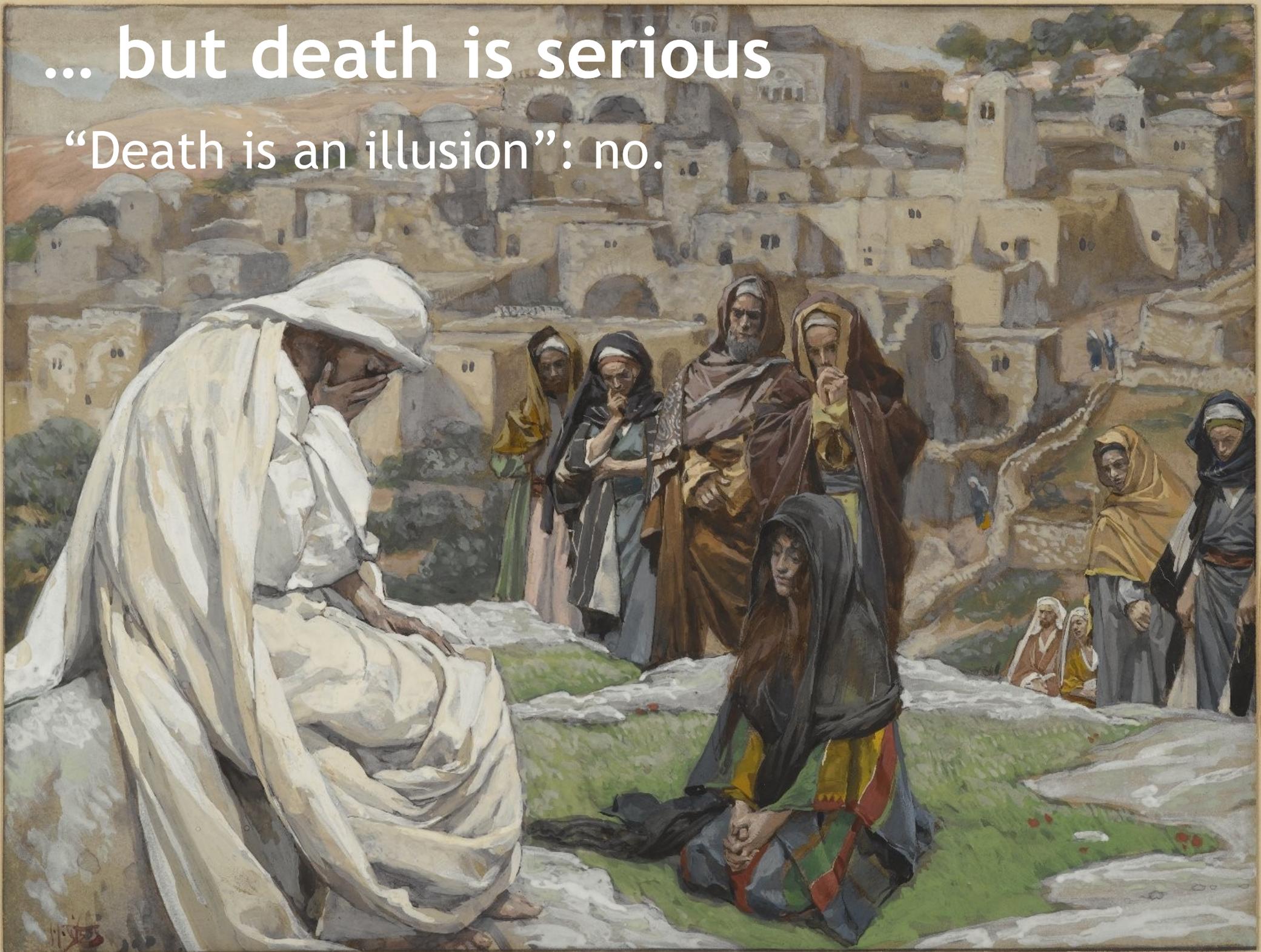
... but death is serious

“Jesus wept.” — John 11:35.



... but death is serious

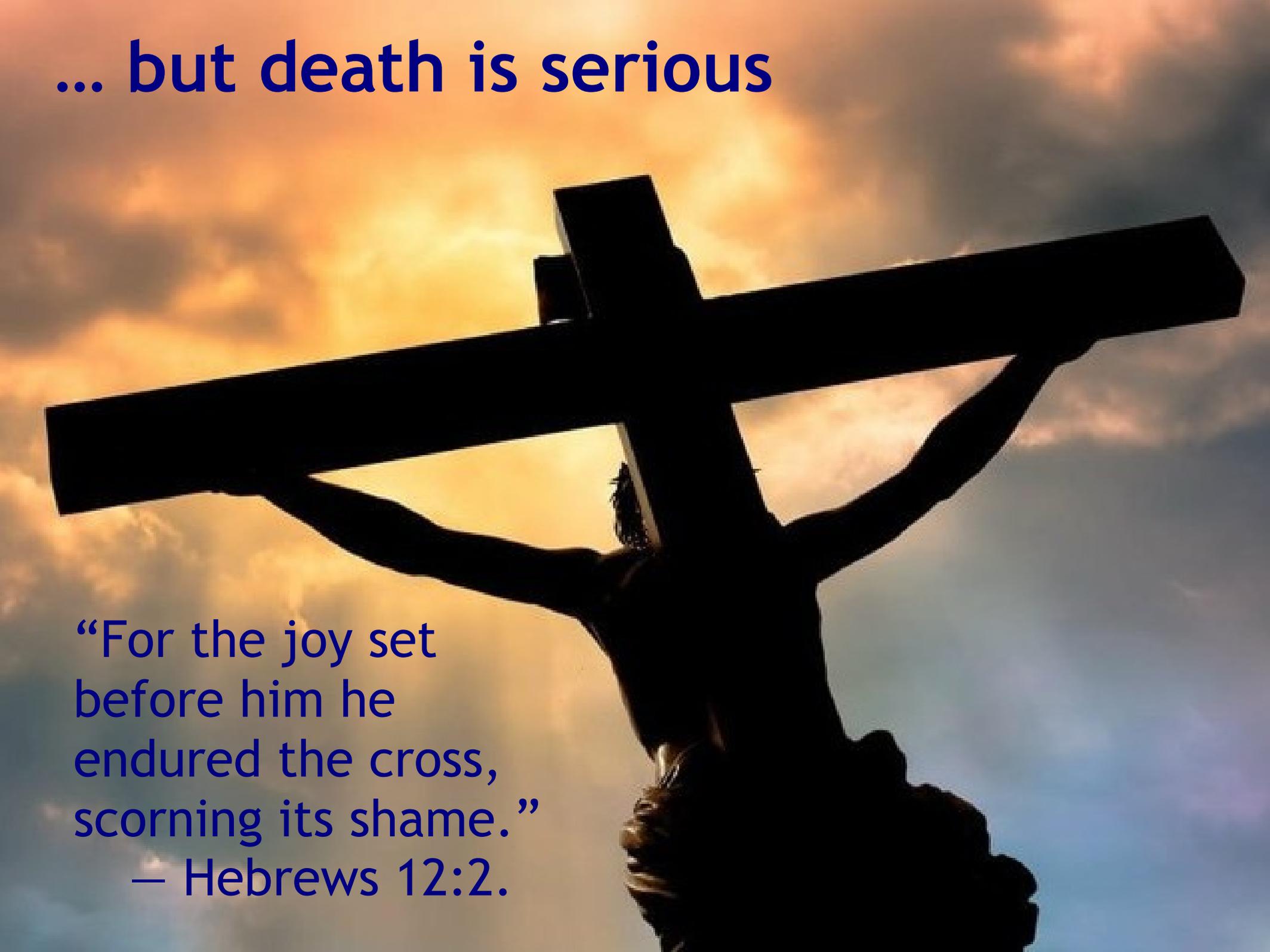
“Death is an illusion”: no.



... but death is serious



... but death is serious

A silhouette of a person on a cross is centered in the image. The background is a dramatic sky with warm, golden light from the sun setting or rising behind clouds, transitioning to a cooler blue and purple hue towards the bottom. The cross is a simple wooden structure, and the figure is positioned on it, with arms outstretched.

“For the joy set
before him he
endured the cross,
scorning its shame.”
– Hebrews 12:2.

... but death is serious



The resurrection and the life

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus corrected her. “No”, he said, “I mean right now.”

— verses 23-25.

The resurrection and the life

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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.”

— verses 23-25.

The resurrection and the life

A proclamation?



The resurrection and the life

An explanation?



The resurrection and the life

Resurrection is the *restoration* of life.

But where did that life come from?



The resurrection and the life

“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see — such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.”

— Colossians 1:15-17.

Jesus is the author of biological life.

The resurrection and the life

“God raised [Jesus] from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”

— Acts 2:24.

The resurrection and the life

“God raised [Jesus] from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”

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“I am the resurrection and the life.”

It's in Jesus's nature.

The resurrection and the life

“God raised [Jesus] from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”

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“I am the resurrection and the life.”

It's in Jesus's nature.

Miracles as overflow of Jesus's nature.

The resurrection and the life

The resurrection of Lazarus was not a one-off.

The resurrection and the life

The resurrection of Lazarus was not a one-off.

It was a prediction of Jesus' resurrection.
(The last pre-resurrection miracle in John.)

The resurrection and the life

The resurrection of Lazarus was not a one-off.

It was a foretaste of our resurrection.
(Martha knew that this day was coming.)

The resurrection and the life

The resurrection of Lazarus was not a one-off.

It was a foretaste of our resurrection.
(Martha knew that this day was coming.)

“His incomparably great power for us who believe ... is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.”

— Ephesians 1:19-20.

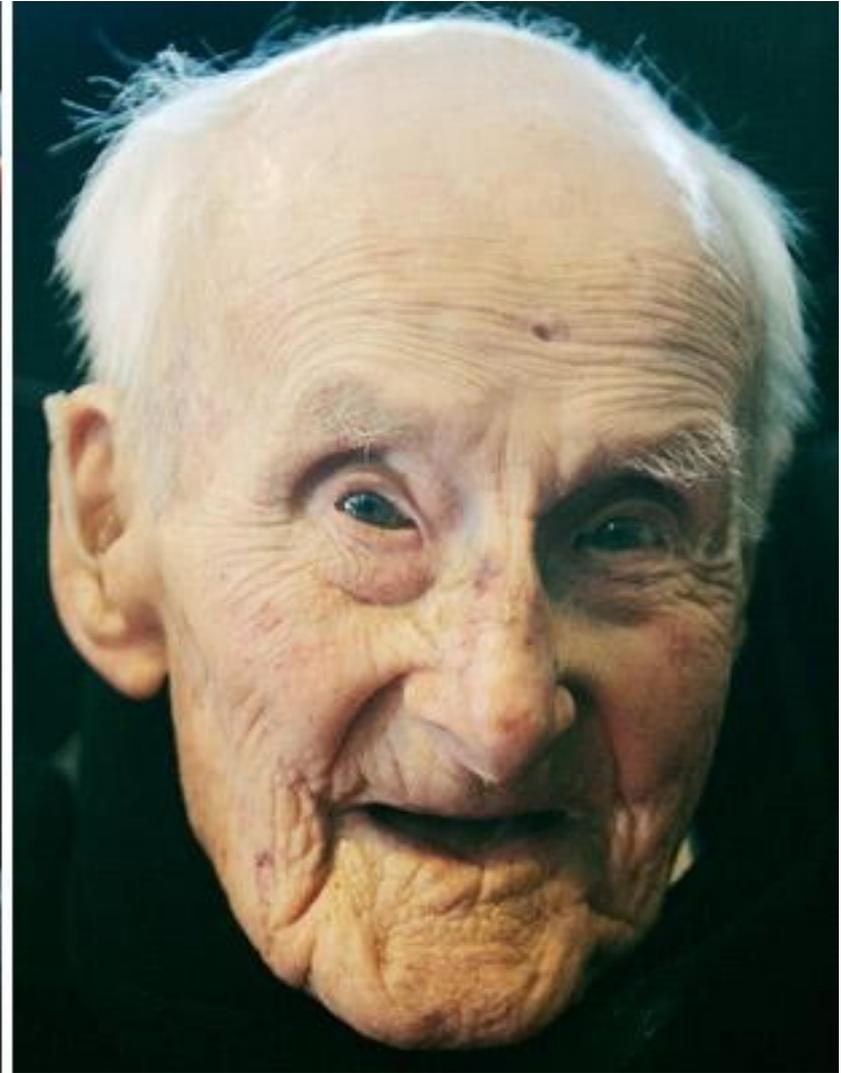
The resurrection and the life

“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

– 1 Corinthians 15:20-22.

What actually *is* resurrection?

20 or 50 more years for Lazarus?



“A totally new mode of being”

C. S. Lewis writing in the essay

“What are we to make of Jesus Christ?”

(collected in *God in the Dock*.)

“A totally new mode of being”

“The earliest Christian writers [...] regarded the Resurrection as something totally different and new. The Resurrection narratives are not a picture of survival after death; they record how a totally new mode of being has arisen in the Universe. Something new had appeared in the Universe: as new as the first coming of organic life. This Man, after death, does not get divided into ‘ghost’ and ‘corpse.’ A new mode of being has arisen.”

What actually *is* resurrection?

“Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be **raised in glory**. They are buried in weakness, but they will be **raised in strength**. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be **raised as spiritual bodies**.”

(1 Corinthians 15:43)

What actually *is* resurrection?

“Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be **raised in glory**. They are buried in weakness, but they will be **raised in strength**. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be **raised as spiritual bodies.**”

(1 Corinthians 15:43)

Previewed in Jesus after the resurrection.

No eye has seen, no ear has heard



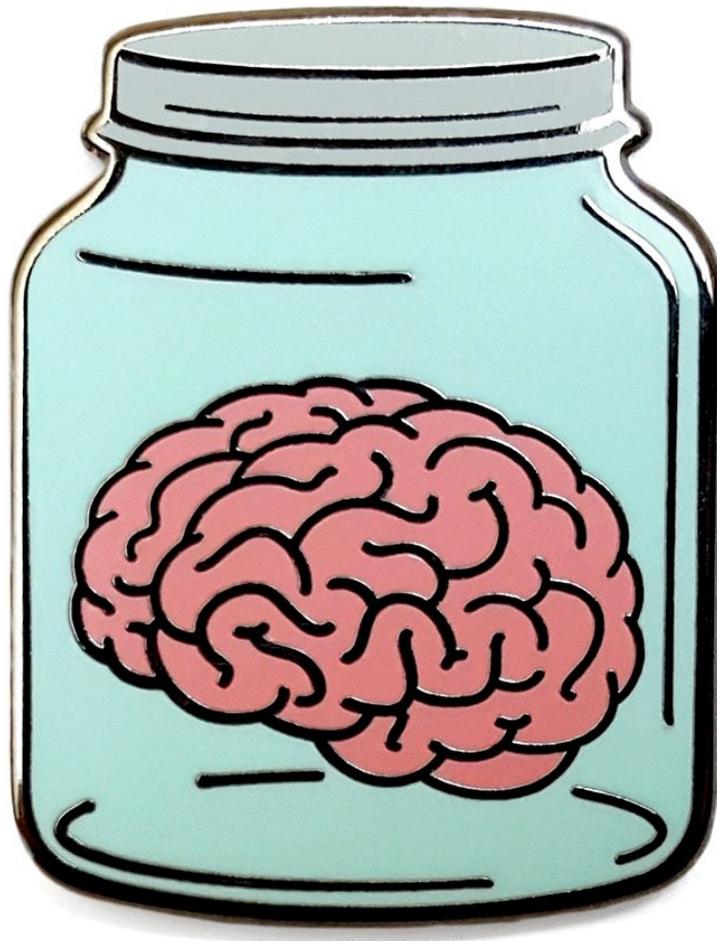
People are so unambitious

– Prosperity preachers



People are so unambitious

- Prosperity preachers
- Futurists



People are so unambitious

- Prosperity preachers
- Futurists
- Spiritualists



People are so unambitious

- Prosperity preachers
- Futurists
- Spiritualists
- Reincarnationists







You'll never get me up
in one of those things!



What actually *is* resurrection?

We are made *for* something greater
Because we were made *by* someone greater!

Jesus demonstrates resurrection



Jesus demonstrates resurrection

He shows now in the small,
what is to come in the large.



Jesus demonstrates resurrection

Most miracles point backwards.
This one points forwards.



And finally ...

Jesus *is* the resurrection

I am the bread of Life (John 6:35)

– Not “I *will give you* the bread of life”

I am the light of the world (John 8:12)

– Not “I *will show you* the light of the world”

I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)

– Not “I am *the means to* resurrection”

Jesus *is* the resurrection

The resurrection is not our goal.

Jesus is our goal.

The bread, the light, and the resurrection are side-benefits. They are not the point.

Jesus *is* the resurrection

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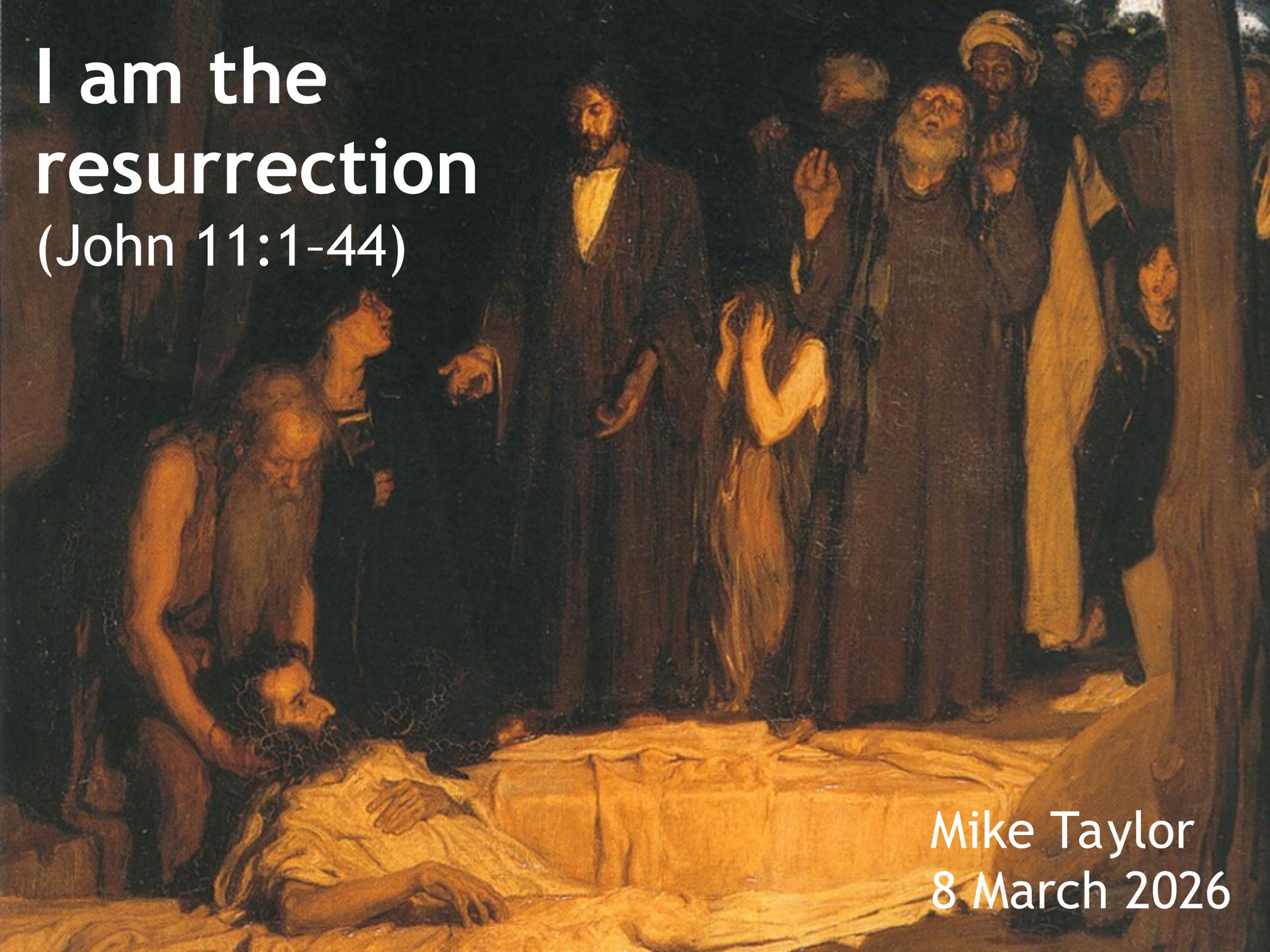
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The essence of Christianity is Jesus himself.

I am the resurrection

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