



Introduction:

Life is full of decisions. According to research, an adult makes nearly 35,000 decisions daily and nearly 1 billion decisions in an average life span. All decisions have consequences. But there is only one decision that will affect the direction of your eternity, and it is the decision you make concerning Jesus Christ. Is He God in the flesh? Was He just a good, moral man? Did His death really pay the full debt of sin, etc.? The good news is the Bible has the answer. Because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, He holds all power and authority. Jesus said of Himself (John 14:6), *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* The Bible is clear – it is only through Jesus that we gain anything God offers (i.e. eternal life, a position in the heavens, forgiveness, peace, etc.) Have you made a decision for Jesus? Have you trusted in the finished crosswork of Jesus Christ?

The Focus:

- **Every person must decide to believe on Jesus Christ.**
 - **Jesus is God in the flesh.**
 - **Jesus is the resurrection.**
 - **Jesus is the only giver of eternal life.**

On Sunday, Pastor Dan brought a challenge to unbelievers and a reminder to believers of the decision they made concerning Jesus Christ. Lazarus being dead four days was brought back to life by Jesus (vs. 41-44). But prior to Lazarus being raised from the dead, his sister, Martha, was asked a very pointed question by the greatest teacher, Jesus Christ (vs. 25-26). In the midst of her sorrow and pain, Christ asked her a question that would test her faith. After declaring His authority, *"I am the resurrection, and the life,"* and informing her of the power of His authority (vs. 25-26), *"He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die,"* he asked (vs. 26) *"Believest thou this?"* And for everyone born in this world that is the same question we all must choose to answer.

Some have said that Jesus was just a good man, a moral teacher, a prophet, but the Bible records that He declared Himself to be more (John 9:35; 10:36). The Bible says that He was more (John 1:1, 14; 1 Timothy 3:16). So, Jesus' witness of Himself and the Bible's record of Jesus demand that everyone make a decision. Was Jesus God in the flesh? Jesus, unlike mere man, has power over life and death. By Christ declaring, *"I am the resurrection, and the life,"* He was making the boldest statement anyone could have made, and it greatly infuriated the scribes and Pharisees (vs. 46-47). Making the statement, Christ put Himself on the same plain as Jehovah (Exodus 3:14; Philippians 2:6). But not only is Jesus God in the flesh, He is the resurrection. Jesus said (John 10:17-18), *"...I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man*

take it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again."

Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would rise again, and Martha was undoubtedly sure that he would rise again on the resurrection day promised by the prophets (Ezekiel 37:4-6). However, Martha was speaking of a future event (Revelation 20:4-5). Christ quickly redirected her thoughts from an event to a Person (vs. 23-25). Christ was saying, no one can rise unless it is by my power and authority. Eternal life is only through Jesus – His life, death, burial, and resurrection. It is impossible to approach the holiness and righteousness of God any other way but by having a relationship with Jesus (Romans 5:1-2). Christ has all power; death was totally incapable of retaining Christ's body in the tomb (Acts 2:24).

Another truth is that Jesus is the only One who can give eternal life. His words were (vs. 25), *"I am the resurrection, and the life."* The statement, "I think, therefore I am," speaks merely of existence, but Christ gives anyone who believes in Him more than a purposeless state of being; instead, He gives life – abundant life (John 10:10). According to Jesus, there are two prerequisites to obtaining everlasting life. Christ said you must be alive and believe in Him in order to avoid eternal death (vs. 26; Revelation 20:14-15). People can't make one decision after death. You must make a decision while you have life and breath to do so. Others may tell you that Christ is wrong, but the empty tomb says that Christ is right!

Key thoughts from John 11 about making a decision for Jesus Christ:

- A decision for Christ must be made while you are alive. vs. 26
- A decision for Christ must be made personally. vs. 27
- A decision for Christ must be made with total resolve. vs. 43-46

Response to the Sermon:

In the sermon, Pastor Dan presented a challenge that every person must make a decision regarding Jesus Christ. Have you trusted Jesus Christ? Do you believe that Jesus is who He claimed to be? Do you believe in the gospel of God (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)? If you haven't, then you must make a decision to trust Him. If yes, you must declare the gospel of Christ to others because it is the power that transforms lives (Romans 1:16). And along with that, the only way others can make a decision for Christ is if they hear which gives them the chance to respond (Romans 10:15; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20). Look for others to engage with and talk to about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bible Study Thoughts & Questions:

As Christians, we must seek Christ at all times. We have an important responsibility in presenting the evidence through nature (Psalm 19:1-3), through God's Word (Psalm 19:7-12), and through our testimony (Psalm 19:13-14). We are taught our life is read by others; your life

may be the only truth of God they know and understand (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). Paul taught this to the believers at Philippi. Living in Florida, we understand the sticker people have on their vehicle that says, "Salt Life." This means their life is all about beach and ocean living. In the same way, a Christian's life should reflect the "Gospel Life." And it is this lifestyle that should unify us as a body of believers (Philippians 1:27).

Have you told anyone the Good News lately?

When should people make a decision to trust Christ (vs. 26; 2 Corinthians 6:2)?

Who will all people give an account to of their life and decisions (Romans 14:11-12)?

According to John 11:46, rather than believe completely in Jesus, some of the Jews ran to their religious leaders. If a person only discusses the things Jesus did and is never resolved to believe in their heart, what is the destiny of that person's life (Revelation 20:14-15)?

What was the thing that prevented Israel from entering into the Promised Land and will be the only thing that hinders someone from obtaining eternal life in this present dispensation (Hebrews 4:6)?

Application Questions:

The word "*life*" is first mentioned in the creation story (Genesis 1:20). The "*breath of life*" was given to man by God in the beginning (Genesis 2:7). All life was created by God, and it exists for His pleasure (Colossians 1:16). So, God's Word reveals that He created life, but what about death? Well, the Bible says that death entered in because of sin and has passed on from generation to generation (Romans 5:12; Genesis 3:1-6). But where did sin originate? That is the root question. According to Scripture, Satan, whose given name was Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12), was "*perfect*" from when he was created until "*iniquity*" (sin) was found in him (Ezekiel 28:15). So,

between the moment he was created until the time of Genesis 3, he sinned (Isaiah 14:13-14). And it was after this that he set out to deceive God's stewards of His creation (Genesis 3:1-6; 1:28) It is because of Adam and Eve's decision to eat of the fruit that every person must make a decision to trust Jesus.

According to Ephesians 2:1-2, every unbeliever is following the course established by "*the prince of the power of the air*" – Satan. By pursuing this path, what is the status of our spirit (Ephesians 2:1)?

In Ephesians 2:1 and verse 5, it says that those who believe are "*quickened*" (made alive). According to Ephesians 2:5 and verse 8, how is someone given life?

Who is there in your life (family, friend, coworker, etc.) that you should show the love of Christ to and tell them about God's grace?

Prayer:

- Pray personally for those (your family, friends, coworkers, etc.) who are without a personal relationship with Christ.
- Pray that you would be an effective ambassador for Christ, telling others about God's desire to reconcile and restore them (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).
- Pray for CrossRoads to be a place where people will be shown the love of God (John 3:16), and a place where God's truth will be revealed (Colossians 1:28-29).