

Opening hymn:- 490:- "Jesus, our triumphant Head,  
Risen victorious from the dead,"

Reading:- 11th Chapt: John verses 1/27 inclusive

Address:- I have read these verses because of these remarkable and striking words of the Lord Jesus to Martha, when He said to her "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

These words, striking as they are, were spoken under striking circumstances, and the preceding verses record those circumstances which are quite familiar -the fatal sickness that came upon Lazarus in that devoted little home where they were, and where the fear of God was. Even naturally, these two sisters and their brother were very devoted, but, the hand of death came! Sorrow comes into a house even where joy comes into the heart, but when the Lord sanctifies a loss He can bring consolation into the soul which nothing but His presence can afford, and it can be with such a word as this which the Lord addressed to Martha in the light of the immediate events and a dead brother who had been in the grave four days! What did Jesus say? "I am the resurrection and the life," as though He would say this can come over all your trouble, all your sorrow, your loss, your bereavement, and what has come into your home. Here is a comforting, consoling, impressive word "I am the resurrection" He would impress it upon her, that her dead brother, her loved one, was in His Hand, that the death which had come upon him was nothing to Christ, for He is the resurrection, and in His power, Lazarus was as much alive as he ever was!

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!" What a striking word it is, but we know how the Lord tried these two sisters by that painful delay in not going immediately when He heard of their sorrow, but abode in the same place two days. He had a purpose in all these things to demonstrate more clearly His divine power and His glorious deity, and in this way, faith was exercised. When Martha heard that Jesus was come near, she went out to meet Him, but Mary sat still in the house. They did not both go out to meet Him, they were each affected in different ways. Martha felt, I must go at once, I can

lose no time, but Mary sat still in the house in her reveries, and in her sad spirit. When Martha met Jesus she said "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died" How this shows us that that which is natural to us soon comes to the front - Oh, if You had been here earlier, You could have saved his life - even so, she continues "But I know, that even now, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee". That is faith, she seemed able to come so far. Then Jesus said to her "Thy brother shall rise again" and Martha answered "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day". Now here came the blessed words: - "I AM THE RESURRECTION, AND THE LIFE: HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE:" As though He would say, faith can rise above death, faith can rise above it all! We may take a lesson from this, particularly when things may lie heavily, when burdens press. Whatever circumstances may prevail, faith can take comfort from this, that the Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, indicating His power over death, that He is the resurrection, not only that He did rise again from the dead, but He had resurrection power to raise His own body, and that of others, and that He will raise the bodies of all His people in the resurrection. He is the first fruits. He rose to die no more. He rose to the realms of bliss with those resplendent wounds, where He is exalted. He is a living Jesus, and He understands all the providences of His people, and everything that concerns them! He is a living Saviour. We have it in the hymn we have been singing which hymn was so good to me several years ago. Those five hymns 485/490, each of them, seemed to fill me, and bring the blessed truth so sweetly into my soul, when I was in hospital. I felt to get that sight of Him as a risen Saviour for me, and when I came to the last verse of hymn 490:-

Hail, Thou dear, Thou worthy Lord;  
 Holy Lamb, incarnate Word!  
 Hail, Thou suffering Son of God!  
 Take the trophies of Thy blood."

it quite broke me down. I cannot bring it back now, but I know what I felt then, and I do not feel I shall ever forget it! It is a mercy to get a glimpse of a loving, living Saviour, of all

that He is, and the blessed offices that He exercises. How blessed this is to a troubled believer, to a lonely soul, to every child of God, when He comes over it all. This is a blessed word: "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE; HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE"

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Prayers:- Mr. Stanley Collins.

Mr. Stephen Hyde & 2nd Hymn:- 257

"Ye humble souls, complain no more;  
Let faith survey your future store"

Mr. Alfred Levell

Mr. Fred Burbridge

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