

I AM – Resurrection and Life

What's the shortest verse in the Bible?

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John 11.35: Jesus wept.

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John 11.35: **Jesus wept.**

- after “I am the resurrection and the life”
verse 25
- before “Lazarus, come out!”
verse 43

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The 'signs' as teaching lessons

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20.30-31

The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. John 19.35

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The 'signs' as teaching lessons

- teaching the disciples verses 6-16
- teaching Martha and Mary verses 3-6, 20-34
- teaching the people verses 36-45
- challenging the leaders verses 46-52

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Teaching the disciples: overcoming fear

“A short while ago the Jews in Judea tried to stone you,
and yet you are going back?” vv 7-8

Then Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also
go, that we may die with him.” v 16

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Teaching the disciples: overcoming fear

The Gospel Ministry Ladies Team was invited for meetings high up in the foothills of the wild Pakistan/Afghan frontier border. There they were able to encourage the tiny Christian community.

These Christians shared some amazing stories of God's protection during continual heavy conflict between the local Sunni and Shiite Muslim communities. The Christians' street runs right down between the two groups and astonishingly enough, not even one stray bullet has ever fallen there and harmed anyone.

During one such heavy gun battle the Christians were told how their Muslim neighbours saw a man wearing a long white robe. He was standing with open arms on one of their roof tops. These Muslims recognised this person to be Hazrat Isa - Jesus! They exclaimed, "Now we know who is protecting you!"

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Teaching Martha and Mary: faith in tragedy

“Lord, if you had been here ... Martha v21

“I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”

“I know our brother will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

“I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, ...”

“Lord, if you had been here ... Mary v32

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Teaching Martha and Mary: faith in tragedy

“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?”

1. Jesus gives life beyond the grave: Resurrection life
2. The life Jesus gives begins NOW: Abundant life Jn 10.10

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Teaching the people: seeing is believing

Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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Teaching the people: seeing is believing

The testimony of love:

Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

The testimony of action:

But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

The testimony of power:

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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Challenging the leaders: power? status? or faith?

But some of the crowd went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

“You do not realise that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

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Challenging the leaders: power? status? or faith?

“If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

The Romans besieged Jerusalem and captured it in AD 70:

As the siege wore on, people began dying from starvation and plague. The high priest's wife, who once basked in luxury, scavenged for crumbs in the streets.

The Roman general Titus wanted to preserve the temple, but his soldiers were so angry at their resilient opponents that they burned it. The remaining Jews were slaughtered or sold as slaves.

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The 'signs' as teaching lessons

- teaching the disciples: overcoming fear
- teaching Martha and Mary: faith in tragedy
- teaching the people: seeing is believing
- challenging the leaders: lack of faith leads to disaster