***John 11:25-27Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” 27She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”***

Last week, we heard Jesus say – *If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me.* But, we do see the works and, when we look for the blessings, we see them all around us. We can’t deny Christ because the evidence of His goodness in our lives is overwhelming. How He has blessed us. How He has healed us. How He is resurrecting us daily. Jesus asked in Matthew 16 *But who do you say that I am?* And Peter answered, as we all must answer, *You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.* Belief in Jesus goes beyond His works, beyond what He can do for us. Instead, we fall in love with Him and His works flow from us. In John 7:38, Jesus tells us that *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.* When we are in Jesus, worship isn’t something we do, living in the Spirit isn’t something we do. It becomes who we are, in every breath. Do we believe this?

Our scripture this morning is part of the story of raising Lazarus. Martha has come to meet Jesus, as He arrives in Bethany. Lazarus has been in the tomb four days. Multitudes have come to comfort the sisters. Martha believes Jesus can ask of God anything and Lazarus will live. She believes in the works, but Jesus has a greater concern. He wants to know – Martha, do you not only believe in what I can do, but do you believe in Who I Am? He is asking, just as He asked in Matthew 16 – But who do you say that I Am? What do you believe Martha? Are you focused on the things of this world, or do you believe in the things of eternity? Her initial response in verse 22 suggests the world, but then we see her change as we study the verses today.

Verse 25 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.* Pretty plain. Jesus doesn’t mince words. I am the resurrection and the life. In Luke 22:70, we read of the chief priests and scribes asking Jesus His true identity, concerning His Divinity. Jesus minces no words here either - *Then they all said, “Are You then the Son of God?” So He said to them, “You rightly say that I am.”* He who believes in Me, though he, though she faces an earthly death, as we all must, shall live eternally. We must believe, not just that Jesus did a lot of good things, but that He is the only Way to eternal life.

Verse 26 *And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?* The time to believe is while we are alive. The time to confess Christ as Savior is while we breathe. Those that, by Faith, believe Jesus’ identity and Divinity, though they die an earthly death, they will never die an eternal death. This body may fall as a kernel of wheat to the ground, but Jesus raises our spirit unto eternal life. Martha – Do you believe this? Do you believe I Am the Source of eternal Resurrection? Do you believe that I Am the Source of eternal Life? Do you believe in Who I Am or just what I can do? Do you believe in Me or only the works?

My friends, that’s still a problem today. Jesus asks us the very same thing. Do you believe this? Who do you say that I Am? It’s critical our spirit cries to His Spirit – You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. As Psalm 42:7 reminds us – Deep calls unto deep. When we believe and are sold out to Who He Is, we change. We see value as Christ sees value, not as the world sees value. We see the world from a God view, not God from a worldview. It’s no longer about doing. It’s about being, existing in eternal life, while living here on earth. We live in Christ, and we do because Christ lives in us.

Listen to Martha’s response in Verse 27 - *She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”* Martha moves from believing in the works to believing in the Lord. Yes Lord – this Greek word carries the idea of a strong affirmation. Not just, yes Lord, I believe… but YES Lord!!! I believe. I know. I am convinced You are the Christ, the Son of God. Almost identical to Peter’s words.

And so must it be with our response. How are we responding? Not just in words, but in works. Yes Lord, we are convinced. We don’t just know of You. We know You. We don’t just believe in Your abilities, but we believe in Your Divinity. You are the Way, the Truth, the Resurrection, and the Life. You are the Strait Gate and the Narrow Way. Teach us to not just see Your works, but to Be Your works. Teach us to let our Light so shine, that others may see You through us. Show us how we might impact Your Kingdom today and every day, pouring out living water on a lost and thirsty world so others may come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.