

I. Introduction

- A. Matthew 22:22-34
 - 1. “The power of God.”
 - 2. This is the truest statement of the church as well.
- B. The power of God:
 - 1. Creation – Genesis 1:1-2
 - 2. Sustenance – Psalm 104:24–29
 - 3.
 - 24 O LORD, how many are Your works!
 - In wisdom You have made them all;
 - The earth is full of Your possessions.
 - 25 There is the sea, great and broad,
 - In which are swarms without number,
 - Animals both small and great.
 - 26 There the ships move along,
 - And Leviathan, which You have formed to sport in it.

 - 27 They all wait for You
 - To give them their food in due season.
 - 28 You give to them, they gather it up;
 - You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good.
 - 29 You hide Your face, they are dismayed;
 - You take away their spirit, they expire
 - And return to their dust.
 - 4. Healing – Matthew 8:1-17
 - 5. Feeding – John 6:1-14
- C. Fact is, no one has the power/authority that Jesus Christ has (Matthew 28 = “All”).
- D. But there is a greater power that will be exercised in the future, and is only pictured here in Lazarus and that is the power over death.
 - 1. No one has this, but Jesus Christ.
 - 2. No one can claim what He did, and validate it.

II. V.21 "Therefore, Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if ever you were here, (then) my brother would not have perished."

- E. Martha's weakness is here.
- F. Can you blame her?!!!
- G. She understood that Jesus could have kept Lazarus from dying.
 - 1. Does this mean that she blames Him for delaying?
 - 2. Did she know about His delay?

III. v. 22 “But rather, even, I now know that that which ever you ask God, God will give to you.”

- H. Why did she say this?
- I. What is she saying, exactly?
1. Conjunction here is strong adversative.
 - a) "Lord, I wish You would have been here because then, if you were here, and not in the Judean wilderness, Lazarus would not have died of his illness."
 - b) "However..."
 2. Martha is indicating a measure of faith that Mary did not mention.
 3. Notice also that the disciples do not seem to even have this faith.
 - a) The door seems to be open in her heart to believe that Jesus can ask of God and God could possibly do something about this situation.
 - b) This is faith.
 - (1) Hebrews
- J. Why did she say "...now.."?
 1. Could be translated "presently."
 2. "I know presently"
 3. This does not need to mean that before she did not believe, because in v. 27 she used the Perfect tense when she affirms her belief in the Sonship of Jesus Christ.
 4. It could indicate, "I find myself currently realizing that you can ask of God and He will..."
- K. Regardless, Martha is viewed as one with tremendous faith.
 1. Faith enough to believe that Jesus can ask of God for anything.
 2. Faith enough to believe that God will, will, respond.
- L. These are like other testimonies of faith in Christ.
 1. "Know" = 81x's in John.
 2. When used in relation to a confession, it means "to understand, percieve, believe" depending upon the context.
 - a) Nicodemus - John 3:2 = superficial knowledge.
 - b) Woman - John 4:25 - Religious knowledge.
 - c) The townspeople of Sychar - John 4:42 = spiritual knowledge.
 - d) Jesus - John 5:32 = infinite knowledge.
 - e) The parents of the blind man - John 9:20 = intimate knowledge.
 3. Martha seems to be saying that she "knows" this and wholeheartedly believes it.

IV. V.23 "Jesus says to her, "Your brother will arise again."

M. This statement is meant to say: "He will be raised up right now."

N. She misunderstood it to say: "He will be raised from the dead at some point in the future."

1. The future, however, is immediate in Jesus' mind.
2. The future, to her, is distant.

V. V.24 "Martha says to Him, "I know that he will arise again in the resurrection in the last day."

O. This is a powerful statement of the understanding that Martha has.

P. She believes in Christ.

1. She believes in the resurrection.
2. She understands that there is a coming resurrection.
3. She obviously is not partial to the Sadducean party.

Q. Where did she get the idea of a resurrection of the last day?

1. Sadducee/Essenes = no resurrection (Matthew 22:23; Act 4:1, 2; 23:8).
2. Pharisees = Resurrection = (Actsts 23:6-8).
3. It was a debated topic, as is evident in Acts 23.

R. In general, the common people hoped in the future.

Hebrews 11:17–19

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*;

18 *it was he* to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called."

19 He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

Daniel 12:1–3

1 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

2 "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

3 "Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Isaiah 26:19–21

19 Your dead will live;
Their corpses will rise.

You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy,
For your dew *is as* the dew of the dawn,
And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

20 Come, my people, enter into your rooms
And close your doors behind you;

Hide for a little while
 Until indignation runs *its* course.
 21 For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place
 To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;
 And the earth will reveal her bloodshed
 And will no longer cover her slain.

II. See Ezekiel 37:1-14!!

- A. Thus, to see the resurrection is to hope in the future restoration of Israel, of which Lazarus would be included.
- B. However, her understanding, like most, is deficient.

VI. V.25 "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one believing into Me will not ever perish.""

- C. He is not just the resurrection, but the resurrection and the life.
 - 1. This is not simply a statement of a general resurrection.
 - 2. In Christ there is also, of necessity, life.
- D. Instead of doctrinal orthodoxy, Jesus calls her to look to Him for a resurrection.
 - 1. John 5:25-29
 - 2. Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15
- E. He is in command of the life of every person of all time.

VII. V.26 "And every/each one living and believing into Me! Will not in any way perish into the age."

- F. "living and believing" = v. 25
 - 1. Resurrection and life = Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Even the dead will be raised, but for judgment of eternal death.
- G. Jesus is calling her to understand the fundamental difference between Himself and every other teacher (who espouses a future hope).
 - 1. He teaches the future resurrection.
 - 2. But unlike others, He claims He is in charge of that resurrection!!!
- H. That is why He says this (v.26).
- I. Now, taking her heart away from Lazarus for a moment, He demands to know what she really believes.
 - 1. "Do you believe" NO.
 - 2. "Do you believe THIS?!" = YES.
 - 3. Jesus does not ask for doctrinal positions here.
 - a) He is requesting, from her own lips, what she believes in her heart about what He just said.
 - b) "This" = the sovereignty of Jesus Christ over the resurrection of the OT.

VIII. Conclusion