I am The Resurrection and The Life — Sem. Gospel

Jno. 11 — 3/10/65

Intro – A. "I am the resurr + the life; he that believes tho he die, yet shall he live; + he that lives + believes shall never die. Do you believe this?"

B. Before we can answer, a preliminary question – what does he mean?

C. Seems strange to ask. The hearts of men everywhere feel they know and that it is wrong, sacrilegious to choose these words than become + commentaries.

1. Know because they have felt what Martha + Mary felt; sent same messages around world; stood where they stood among mourners our mind might slide, wondering why Jesus not here and when he comes, feeling better but he came too late.

2. Know because they have felt his presence, known the comfort of his term, hope in his words.

3. And in experience of heart is adequate commentary on Script., then surely here enough for the fact of death touches us all. Death walks in bloody boots, tip toes into nurseries, interrupts evening rest, ambushes in V. Nam + Selma.

4. We all know it of late. Flag has been for months at ½ mast – Kennedy, MacArthur, Hamm, Churchill, and among us, for 4 yrs, wreath on our door.

D. yet not enough. Know "Not wisdom enough to be wise." Must recognize that the passage may hold greater promise than heretofore heart may know.

I The Gospel of John Makes Greater Demand than other Books – Not Spoken, But Spoken

A God has spoken. Same word by which creation called into being now addresses world to reconcile it again to Creator. The Word – 1:14.

B. Never Easy to Listen, but especially to this Word.

1. Because it is a word of judgment, especially upon centers of religion.

2. Because we have entrenched ourselves in traditions and institutions + resist God's continuing word. 46 yrs to build; Man at pool; Scriptures; of Abraham

3. Because we are so attached to relative values that we can't hear the Word from outside us, calling us to values of eternal significance. Woman at well; 5000; meat to eat.

4. Primarily because we the Word is from God, not

of the world, contingent, dependent. Hence even those who have claim upon Jesus are deaf to this Word.
Mother, Brothers, Nicodemus, Disciples,
Martha + Mary.

@ The note said "Whom you love (filia) is ill"
(b) Response - Jesus loved Lazarus (agape).

They think of what they want at moment and naturally turn to a friend for help. So do Jesus see it (See here he loved - filia)

5. But the Word here is a higher Word spoken not to their wants out of filia but to their needs + ours out of agape.

II and what Do that Word?

A. Christ is the Resur. and the Life.

1. He stood in the crisis between life and death. NOT a funeral hymn, or some myth of future.
2. Life begins with Jesus Christ.
   a This is life eternal,
   b Has the Son has life
   c Passed out of death into life
3. Death then is a past experience. Magnificent reversal. No longer barricading self against fear + fact of death.
4. Eternal life a present experience. Recorded to God; qualitative, not quantitative.

B. Life on both sides of grave, grave becomes incidental to larger truth - Life hid with Christ in God and in that relationship is life eternal.

Concl - A. This Word comes to cemeteries of world where men dead in their gardens expand thru from sources of life + meaning, clutch in the frustrating ignoring + losing all the relative created values that are subject to change and decay.

B. To these, this Word is a Word of judgment - I am the Resur + the Life."

C. To him who turns in faith, it is the Word of Life.