

Do You Believe the Resurrection Story?

Easter comes but once a year. It's the time to tell the story of the resurrection, which makes sense of the death of Jesus Christ. Without the resurrection his death is just a sad and meaningless tragedy. The resurrection story is THE REST OF THE STORY.

Jesus Predicted His Death and Resurrection

Matthew 12:38-40 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you." He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 16:20-21 Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ. From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Matthew 17:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Matthew 17:22-23 When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." And the disciples were filled with grief.

Matthew 20:18-19 "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

Matthew 26:31-32 Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Matthew 27:62-63 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate.. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.'

So, Thomas (John 20:24-31) wasn't the only doubter.

They all doubted except the women at the tomb and Peter and John.

See Luke 24:11 *"Their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not."*

Mark 16:11 *"When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it."*

Mark 16:12-13 *Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.*

The Evidence of the Resurrection

1. Was he really dead? The crucifixion and final spear in the side is proof.
2. The Burial – Joseph and Nicodemus carried him to a tomb and wrapped him with spices.
3. The Grave – A large heavy stone was rolled over the tomb.
4. The Guards – These were Roman soldiers as mandated by Pilate. 4-26 Roman soldiers.
5. The Seal – The seal of Rome, a cord with a clay seal of Roman authority.
6. The Earthquake – An angel rolled away the stone.
7. The Guards Fled – first fell down with fright, then ran away.
8. The Missing Body – the women find grave wrappings but no body.

Appearances After the Resurrection

1. Mary Magdalene - Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1, John 20:1
2. Mary and others (Luke 24:10 and Joanna, and other *women that were* with them, which told these things unto the apostles.(Mark 16:1 - Mary the mother of James, and Salome)
3. Emmaus Road - two Cleopas (James?) - Luke 24:18 / Mark 16:12
4. Eleven Disciples – Mark 16:14-20, Luke 24:35-52
5. Ten Disciples - John 20:18-22
6. Eleven and Thomas - John 20:26-31
7. Seven by Sea of Galilee - John 21:1-12
8. Disciples on Mountain in Galilee - Mt 28:1-13, John 21:14-25
9. Disciples Mount of Olives - Acts 1:3-12
10. By 500 at one time - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Conclusion and Application

- What are you not hearing that Jesus said?
- Are there any commands you have forgotten?
- Are there any promises you have ignored?
- Are you expecting His second coming? 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Thomas was a doubter, then a pouter, and finally a shouter. Are You?

Second Coming of Christ

^{51.} Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--^{52.} in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ^{53.} For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ^{54.} When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." ^{55.} "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ^{56.} The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ^{57.} But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ^{58.} Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.