

EASTER 2024 | Resurrection Sunday

Welcome to the perfect place for imperfect people! My name is David, 1 of the pastors here.

Today we gather and rally along with billions of people around the globe (or the disk for you Flat Earthers) because of one commonality-

We believe, Jesus was the Son of God, long awaited Messiah, who died yet resurrected.

That's either why you are here, or why someone may have invited you here.

I understand not everyone may believe that-

to you I say, I am so grateful that despite not buying into this, you are still here. Thank you.

Allow me to paint a picture for you:

You get a call that an uncle you never met has died and left YOU, his closest surviving relative, his fortune; though skeptical, you would *hope* it's true.....Because, IF this is true, it changes everything !

In the words of JD GREAR- **Whether or not the resurrection is true, you should *want* it to be true.**

Because IF it *is* true, everything changes!

What if it's not true? The bible addresses that!

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:19 If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

Common Arguments:

- ***“I have my own spirituality”***
 - That logic doesn't work for any other area of life (my own laws officer)-
 - “I have my own spirituality” – but what are you basing that on? Where did you pull from?
 - It cannot trace to ourselves
- ***“All religions lead to the same thing/place”***
 - Jesus made it brutality clear that He's the only way
His teaching doesn't leave room to make it one of many ways.
You're better off saying its wrong rather than its one of many
- ***“There is no evidence”***
 - Historical
 - Chart 1: There are 5,686 Greek New Testament manuscripts in existence today. Compared to other ancient writings, the New Testament manuscripts far outweigh others in quantity and accuracy. 18 New Testament manuscripts are from the 2nd century and one from the 1st century.
 - Chart 2: Time gap between original and 1st surviving copies of ancient writings
 - Chart3: Number of manuscript copies compared to ancient writings

- There is more written historical evidence for the resurrection of a man named Jesus from Nazareth who died by crucifixion, than there is for the validity that the writings of Shakespeare are actually Shakespeare's. (Jewish historians, Roman historians)
- Prophetic
 - Peter Stoner "Science Speaks"- *We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all **eight** prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000).*
 - Stoner went on to calculate the probability of one person fulfilling **48** prophecies: 1 in 10^{157}
 - Conservatively, there are at least **300** Messianic Prophecies!
- Eyewitness
 - Women first- not convincing in 1st century
 - On different occasions and under various circumstances different individuals and groups of people experienced appearances of Jesus alive from the dead.
 - The original disciples suddenly and sincerely came to believe that Jesus was risen from the dead despite it costing them their lives
 - Men will die for a lie, but not for something they know to be a lie

What if the resurrection *is* true?

1 Corinthians 15:20 But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The bible documents someone who pondered this same question- Peter

John 20:1-10 On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she went running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, "They've taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him!"

³At that, Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb.

You have to understand Peter's last moments with Jesus-

- "I will be arrested and put to death" – "NO WAY I won't let it happen!" "Get behind me satan"
- Jesus arrested- Peter strikes a guard- Jesus rebukes him and then heals the man
- Denied Jesus 3 times, as Jesus had predicted (even though Peter argued he would not) and then looked eyes with Jesus after the 3rd time
- Abandoned Jesus when he was crucified
-

Can you imagine what was Peter thinking along the way?

⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. ⁵Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.

John is not only the more civilized of the 2, he knew in Jewish culture that if he entered the tomb= unclean

⁶Then, following him, Simon Peter also came. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷The wrapping that had been on his head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself. ⁸The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then also went in, saw, and believed. ⁹For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Luke in his account of events tells us that (**Luke 24:12**) Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. When he stooped to look in, he saw only the linen cloths. So he went away, amazed at what had happened.

Peter's Dilemma- If the resurrection of Jesus is true, that's good.... the problem is, I'm bad.

I think the hang up that most of us have with Jesus is, if He's real & what he says is true- I'm in trouble!

Can I point out the obvious?

The obvious: The penalty for sin is severe

Death! Hell!

The not so obvious: The penalty for sin is severe because God is just

Sin, according to God, is severe

If God is real, we want him to be just- impartial- fair

The Good News: The payment for sin is settled because God is graceful and loving

That's the reason for the cross- for the grave- for the resurrection

God loves you. Regardless of how you feel about him.

Romans 5:8

Back to Peter.... Here's what we know:

Jesus appeared to the group of disciples 3 times

1st time- Thomas not there

2nd time- Thomas there

3rd time- at the beach....breakfast...

BUT...Jesus met with Peter privately first! Let me show you...

The day of the resurrection, to followers of Jesus were walking and "discussing and arguing (Luke 24:15)" what had happened with Jesus. Then Jesus shows up but they don't recognize him yet...

Luke 24:30-35 It was as he reclined at the table with them that he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?" ³³That very hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those with them gathered together, The 2 are about to break the news to the rest, but the 11 interrupt them first!

³⁴who said, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they began to describe what had happened on the road and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me.

We know nothing of what was said in that private meeting between Jesus and Peter

Based on Peter’s boldness afterwards, it’s safe to assume 2 things took place:

- Peter Repented of his sin
- Jesus Forgave him and Restored him

If the resurrection of Christ is true.....

- You and I need to repent of our sin
- You and I can find forgiveness for our sin
- It means we have intrinsic worth and value
- Our suffering is momentary
- there is hope, there is freedom, there is joy

**Jesus’ Invitation- Everything has been accounted for in Jesus’ sacrifice,
the only appropriate response is to believe.**

For those in Christ, this world is as close to hell as you will ever come.

For those outside of Christ, this world is as close to heaven as you'll ever come.

*******CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM**

Q: What is your immediate next step in following Jesus?

BULPEN-

MacLaren- No word escaped Peter's lips as to what passed in the conversation between the denier and his Lord. That is very significant.

The other appearances of the risen Lord to individuals on the day of Resurrection suggest their own reasons. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene because she loved much. The love that made a timid woman brave, and the sorrow that filled her heart, to the exclusion of everything else, drew Jesus to her. The two on the road to Emmaus were puzzled, honest, painful seekers after truth. It was worth Christ's while to spend hours of that day of Resurrection in clearing, questioning, and confirming sincere minds. Does not this other appearance explain itself?

Mark 16:7 tell my disciples AND PETER

MacLaren- There followed the sudden rush to the grave, when the feet made heavy by a heavy conscience were distanced by the light step of happy love, and 'the other disciple did outrun Peter.' The more impulsive of the two dashed into the sepulchre, just as he afterwards threw himself over the side of the boat, and floundered through the water to get to his Lord's feet, whilst John was content with looking, just as he afterwards was content to sit in the boat and say, 'It is the Lord.' But John's faith, too, outran Peter's, and he departed 'believing,' whilst Peter only attained to go away 'wondering.' And so another day wore away, and at some unknown hour in it, Jesus stood before Peter alone.

At the beginning of Holy Week, on Palm Sunday, we shout, "Hosanna! Oh, save now!" At the end of Holy Week, on Easter, we shout, "Hallelujah! Praise, Yah!" For our prayers are answered. Salvation is won for us in Christ.

THE BEAUTY OF HIS SCARS

Kintsugi. The Japanese practice of mending broken pottery has become a popular metaphor for the beauty found amid pain or brokenness. Instead of discarding the seemingly useless pieces of busted works of art, gold is mixed with epoxy to not only mend the pottery piece but also bring attention to the breaks. Rather than simply being made to feel whole again, Kintsugi art reminds people there is beauty in the scars, golden scars, if you will. For this reason, the Japanese give Kintsugi its name: "gold healing."

John 20:24-29

There's been much debate trying to answer why Jesus still has scars. After all, a resurrected body is supposed to be perfect. The glimpse Jesus gave his disciples at the Transfiguration seems to imply this. Some say Jesus retained his scars as a way to prove that it was really him standing there and not a ghost. Some say it was to remind his disciples that he really was crucified. But what if those scars are left on purpose to emphasize the beauty of Jesus through his work to save the lost and raise the dead? This is what makes those scars the most beautiful part of Jesus' physical body: Jesus' scars are beautiful because they proclaim the truth that sinners belong to him now. Even in the glorification of his resurrection, Jesus' body continues to tell the story of salvation. As the Word made flesh who dwells among his disciples again, Jesus is for his disciples and for us now a walking

Gospel. Even though they have healed, the battle scars of Jesus remain. They are now remnants of holes where you and I can still be found today.

“By his wounds, you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

- Aaron Boerst

Blaise Pascal was a brilliant 17th century French mathematician and physicist who had a dramatic Christian conversion experience and thereafter devoted much of his thought to Christianity and philosophy.

Pascal said regarding Christianity that people don't *want* it to be true—yet fear it *may* be true.

<https://timothykeller.com/blog/2014/1/1/pascals-method-for-presenting-the-christian-faith>

<https://www.reasonablefaith.org/media/debates/is-there-historical-evidence-for-the-resurrection-of-jesus-the-craig-ehrman>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/advent-statistical-probability-jesus-fulfilling-messianic-george#:~:text=And%20that%20number%20is%20just,that%20Jesus%20of%20Nazareth%20fulfilled.>