

The Life-Changing Truth about Jesus' Resurrection

Matthew 27-28

Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?

Matthew 17:22 -23 shows that Jesus himself said he would rise from the dead. But because Jesus said he would rise from the dead, then if he did not rise from the dead, that would question everything else he said.

So everything hangs on whether or not Jesus rose from the dead.

What does the Bible say happened?

The Bible contains eye-witness accounts of Jesus – his life, miracles, and teaching.

Jesus' teaching and miracles changed the lives of many people, and caused the religious leaders to be jealous and make plans to kill him.

So Jesus was arrested, scourged, beaten, and put to death on the cross. Guards were posted at the tomb so no one would steal his body.

We read what happened next in Matthew 28:1-10 – Jesus rose from the dead.

Why should we believe this?

In Matthew 28 we see that the disciples believed in the resurrection not because of some sort of blind faith, but because of the evidence – the empty tomb (v.6), seeing Jesus for themselves in Galilee (v.7), and meeting Jesus right there near the tomb (vv.9-10).

We can see this emphasis on evidence also in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.

Were these eye-witnesses lying? People won't die for something they know is a lie. Were they hallucinating? People don't have group hallucinations, nor do hallucinations involve touching and eating with someone.

Therefore, we have massive eye-witness evidence that Jesus rose from the dead, and no evidence to the contrary.

What difference does this make?

Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can trust everything he said, and know that by trusting him we can be forgiven for all our sin, and be reconciled to God now and forever.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

1. Before Sunday, did you try to believe in Jesus' resurrection because of some sort of blind faith, or did you believe in his resurrection based on the evidence?
2. Why do some people think we should believe based on blind faith? Why do some people look down on faith that is based on evidence?
3. Do you agree that the resurrection story in Matthew 28 shows that the women and the rest of the disciples believed in the resurrection based on evidence? Why or why not?
4. How does it impact you to read Paul's list of people who personally saw Jesus after he had risen from the dead?
5. What questions were raised by Sunday's teaching?
6. What will you do differently this coming week because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead?

