

## ***Risen!***

### ***Easter Sunday***

John 11:25-26; Luke 24:1-12

March 27, 2016

**John 11:25**, *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup>and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

### **Questions You Might Have:**

#### **1. How Do We Know The Tomb Was Empty?**

- **Enemy Confirmation**

**Matthew 28:12**, *When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup>telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’”*

- **Testimony Of The Disciples And The Women**

**Luke 24:9**, *When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others... <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb.*

### **Conclusion: The Tomb Was Empty And The Body Was Gone!**

#### **2. What Are The Basic Facts Of The Resurrection?**

- **Fact 1: Jesus Died By CRUCIFIXION**

- Reported In All Four Gospels (Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19)
- Reports By Many Non-Christian Sources

Tacitus (Roman historian); the Talmud (a collection of ancient Jewish writings); Lucian (a Greek satirist); and many other non-Christian sources reported it including Josephus (1<sup>st</sup> century Roman-Jewish historian who was born in Jerusalem).

**Josephus (c. 37–c. 100)**, *“...Pilate, upon hearing Him accused by men of the highest standing amongst us, had condemned Him to be crucified...”*

- **Fact 2: The Disciples Believed Jesus Rose From The DEAD**

- They Claimed It.

**1 Corinthians 15:3**, *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup>and last of all He appeared to me also...*

**Polycarp (c. 69-c. 155)**, Speaking of Paul and the other apostles he wrote, *“For they did not love the present age, but Him who died for our benefit and for our sake was raised by God.”*

- They Believed It To The Point Of Death.

Tertullian (160-220), Origen (185-254) and others attested to their martyrdom.

**Tertullian (c. 160–c. 220)**, *Peter was crucified and Paul was beheaded under Nero, who was the first emperor to execute Christians.*

- **Fact 3: Paul, The Persecutor, Was CONVERTED**

- What Caused Paul To Change? Paul spoke of his conversion after encountering a risen Jesus in 1 Corinthians 15:9-10, Galatians 1:13-16 and Philippians 3:6-7.

- **Fact 4: James, The Skeptical Brother Of Jesus, CHANGED**

James, Jesus' brother was an unbeliever early in Jesus' life (Mark 3:21-22, 31-35, 6:3-4; John 7:1-9), but after Jesus' resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:7), James became a leader in the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:12-21; Galatians 1:19), and ultimately died as a martyr for his faith as was confirmed by Josephus and the Talmud.

**Hegesippus (c. 110 – c. 180)**, *The Sanhedrin summoned James to appear before it. They told the old man they knew he had great influence over the people, and they themselves recognized him as a just man. However, too many were "going astray" as regards to this Jesus, and they could not let that continue. Now Passover is coming, they said, and thousands of people would be assembled in Jerusalem. They therefore directed him to stand far above the crowd at the "pinnacle" of the Temple, to publicly repudiate Jesus, and to urge the people not to be led astray.... Thus, he agreed and was taken to the pinnacle above the crowd. "Now tell them," ordered his accusers ... James's response rang out to the hushed crowd below: "Why are you asking me concerning Jesus, the Son of Man? He sits in the Heaven at the right hand of the Great Power..." The crowd became frenzied, yelling, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!" Realizing they had bungled the job, the chief priest Ananus's servants hurled James from the parapet... People rushed to the spot where he had crashed to the floor below. They found him still alive, and echoing the prayer of Jesus: "I entreat thee, Lord God our*

*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing." In response, one of his condemners took a club, which was used for beating the water out of washed clothes, and bashed him to death... Thus perished James the Just, kinsman of Christ, who emulated Him in life and death."*

### 3. **What Is The Best Explanation Of These Four Facts?**

*Jesus Rose From The Dead!*

**Conclusion: Those Facts Of The Resurrection Lead Me To Say-**

*My faith is not shaped by a fairytale and my hope is not built on a hoax—The Resurrection Of Jesus Is A Fact!*

### **What About You?**

**Jeremiah 29:11**, *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.*

### **What Now?**

1. Legit Faith: All Day, Every Day. Join us for the next 7 weeks in Worship & Life Groups for an in-depth look at the book of James which was written by James, the brother of Jesus.
2. Life Groups: If you would like more information on how to get in a Life Group@Church or Life Group@Home for the next 7 Weeks, text "Group" to 25827.
3. The Case for Christ: Men, if you would like to join the Pastor for his series on "The Case for Christ" the next 7 weeks on Tuesday mornings from 6:00a-7:00a, Room A200, text "Resurrection" to 25827.

