

What Does The Resurrection Say About Jesus?

*The Case For Christ, Pt.3

John 12:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:2-19

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Palm Sunday:

John 12:12, *The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" ... ¹⁸Many people, because they had heard that He had performed this sign, went out to meet Him. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!"*

The Resurrection Is What Makes The Gospel Such GOOD NEWS

1 Corinthians 15:2, *By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*

What Are The Basic Facts Of The Resurrection?

Fact #1: Jesus Died By Roman CRUCIFIXION

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...*

Isaiah 53:4, *But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

• Reported In All Four Gospels

(Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19)

• Reported 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 (1st century Roman-Jewish historian who was born in Jerusalem).

"...Pilate, upon hearing Him accused by men of the highest standing amongst us, had condemned Him to be crucified..." (Josephus)

Fact #2: Jesus Was Buried And The Tomb Was EMPTY
1 Corinthians 15:4, *...that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...*

How Do We Know The Tomb Was Empty?

• EYEWITNESS 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... ¹¹But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹²Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb.*

• 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, ¹³telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'"*

Conclusion: The tomb was empty and the body was gone!

Facts #3: There Were Many Witnesses To The RESURRECTION!

1 Corinthians 15:5, ...and that He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After 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. ⁷Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all He appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

- **The Previously Fearful Disciples Preached It And Claimed It To The POINT OF DEATH**

- **James, The Skeptical Brother Of Jesus Became A MARTYR**

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.

- **Paul The Persecutor Of The Church 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.

What Is The Best Explanation Of These Three Facts?

- **Jesus ROSE FROM THE DEAD!**

- **Rejecting The Resurrection Is Rejecting The EVIDENCE**

1 Corinthians 15:12, *But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

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

Cottonwood Creek Challenge:

- Join the Cottonwood Creek family and follow the Pastor's daily blog on our journey to Easter with our 21 days to Easter reading plan! You can find it on his website: johnmarkcaton.com; Twitter: @johnmarkcaton; Facebook: /johnmarkcaton; Instagram: PastorJohnMark.
- Pick up an Easter invitation bag on your way out and invite a neighbor, friend or new move-in to one of our five Easter weekend services.

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