

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Jesus' resurrection transformed his followers into bold proclaimers of his life. What do you think you need to change in your life in light of his resurrection?
- The most credible theory of what happened to Jesus is that he was resurrected and is Lord over life and death as he claimed. Where in your life do you need the resurrection power of Jesus?
- How can you more boldly share Jesus death and resurrection this week?

PRAYER

- Ask God to give you greater boldness and opportunities to share his good news.
- Ask God for his help in any areas where you need his resurrection power in your life.
- Ask God to help you live a life that more powerfully reflects the truth about Jesus, that he died for us and was raised from the dead, living forevermore to help us and bring us to heaven to be with him.

NOTES



CONNECT

- What would you consider the most significant world event that has occurred during your lifetime? Why was it significant?
- What is the most significant event in your life? How did it change your life?
- What do you think is the most significant event recorded in the Bible?

WHAT

Every sermon preached in the New Testament centers on the resurrection. The message that flashed across the ancient world, set hearts on fire, changed lives and turned the world upside down was not “love your neighbor.” Every morally sane person already knew that; it was not news. The news was that a man who claimed to be the Son of God and the Savior of the world had risen from the dead. People loved and accepted Jesus’ moral teachings, but turned on him when he publicly claimed to be God, a claim that led to his crucifixion which resulted in the disillusionment of even his closest followers. His resurrection changed everything!

“¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV)

1. The Importance of the Resurrection

“³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: 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, and then to the Twelve.”

1 Corinthians 15:3–5 (NIV)

If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then his predictions about himself were wrong and his claim of power over death and sin in our lives is dubious. What are some implications if Jesus did rise from the dead?

2. Competing Theories.

“¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

2 Peter 1:16 (NIV)

Here are the main theories that have been offered in place of the Christian history of the resurrection.

1. Mass Hallucinations – the resurrection was a case of mass hallucination. Why didn’t the Jewish leaders or Roman guards simply go to the tomb and produce the body?

2. Swoon – Jesus didn’t really die, just fainted. How could Jesus, unbelievably beaten and abused, in a coma for 3 days, had the strength to remove a massive stone and defeat a squad of highly-trained Roman soldiers, walked the earth 40 days then faked his ascension.

3. Conspiracy/Myth – The disciples made up the resurrection story & stole his body. This could have been immediately disproved by the Jews or the Romans by simply going to the tomb. If it was a myth or a conspiracy, it is unlikely the disciples would have stuck to the story through horrendous torture and death.

3. Evidence for the Resurrection.

“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.”

1 Corinthians 15:6 (NIV)

Here are a few supporting facts to the Christian view of the resurrection: New Testament writers like Mark began writing about the resurrection within a few years of his death while eye witnesses were still available to refute/support the claim. The story reads like history, not myth or fable. The Jews never disputed the empty tomb, only posited theories as to how it became empty. What do you think happened and why?