

Facts of the Resurrection

Is there proof of Jesus' resurrection? First, virtually every historian—Christian, Jewish, secular, or skeptical—agrees that Jesus was executed by the Romans. Why is it important to know that? Because a resurrection cannot occur unless a death has occurred first. The Romans were experts in execution. No one walked away from a Roman cross. Plus, the Roman soldiers confirmed Jesus' death before Pilate released His body to Joseph of Arimathea (John 19.33, 38). The view that Jesus merely fainted or survived the cross is historically and medically impossible.

Next, Jesus was buried in a well-known, accessible tomb. Jesus was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Jewish council. Why is this significant? Because Jesus was buried by a public figure who placed Jesus in a publicly known location. The tomb could be visited, inspected, and verified by friends and enemies alike. If Jesus had not risen and His body was still inside, Christianity would have been immediately crushed. The empty tomb is one of the most widely accepted facts of the resurrection story. It was acknowledged by the Jewish leaders who claimed the disciples stole the body (Matthew 28.11-15). The first witnesses of the empty tomb were women. If the story was fabricated, men would have been chosen as the first reporters because a woman's word had very little value in the first century. Plus, the apostles preached the resurrection and the empty tomb in the very city where Jesus was buried.

There were hundreds of eyewitnesses who saw our resurrected Lord. Paul recorded a list of eyewitnesses in I Corinthians 15.3-8. Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, then to the apostles, to Thomas, who touched Jesus' wounds, to over 500 hundred people at once, to His half-brother James, and finally to the apostle Paul.



Another proof of the resurrection was the transformation of Jesus' disciples. Before the resurrection, the disciples were fearful and locked behind closed doors. After the resurrection, they preached boldly and the church grew exponentially. They proclaimed the resurrection as the center of the gospel message. Preaching the resurrection caused them to face imprisonment, torture, and death. People may die for a lie they believe is true, but no one willingly dies for a lie they know is false. Their transformation can only be explained from seeing and believing in the risen Lord.

The resurrection is the best explanation of the evidence. When all the facts are considered: Jesus' death, His burial in a known tomb, the empty tomb, eyewitnesses, the transformation of the disciples, and the explosion of the early church—the resurrection stands. What more do you need to convince you that Jesus rose from the grave?

Gary

The Resurrection Speaks

Matthew 28.1-6

1. Anyone ever tell you something so good that your reaction wasn't joy, but disbelief?
2. What are your expectations about Jesus?
3. Do you come to worship expecting emptiness, expecting disappointment, expecting nothing to change?

I) The Resurrection Speaks To People Who Feel _____ (Luke 24.1-8).

- A) The women came to the tomb carrying _____, **not** _____.
- B) The resurrection meets people in their defeat.

II) The Resurrection Speaks To People Who Feel _____ (Luke 24.9-11).

- A) The disciples thought the women's words were _____.
 - 1) Who were the disciples?
 - 2) Didn't they see Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead (John 11.38-44)?
- B) The resurrection is God's _____ to every doubt.
- C) The resurrection doesn't silence doubt—it _____ it.

III) The Resurrection Speaks To People Who Feel _____ (Luke 24.12)

- A) When the angel told the women, "*Go tell His disciples,*" Mark's gospel account added two powerful words "... _____" (*Mark 16.7*).
- B) The resurrection is not just about power—it's about _____.
- C) If Jesus walked out of the grave, then your _____ doesn't get the last word.

IV) The Resurrection Speaks To People Who Feel _____ Inside.

- A) The greatest miracle that ever occurred was when Jesus arose from the dead.
 - 1) But just as exciting is that Jesus raises the _____ **in** _____.
 - 2) Paul said in **Ephesians 2.1**, "*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins.*"
- B) The resurrection is not just an event—it is a power that brings dead things back to life.

V) The Resurrection _____ A _____.

- A) Many people reacted differently to the good news.
- B) The empty tomb calls you to...
 - 1) _____ again.
 - 2) _____ again.
 - 3) _____ again.
 - 4) _____ again.

C) If Jesus arose, you can, too.

Conclusion: Christ arose to save you. Do you need to come to Him?



Good morning church family and happy Lord's Day. (Bet you thought I was going to say "Easter!") So many people are celebrating "Easter" today, that I thought there may be something to consider in that story about my favorite topic—Connection!

Easter reminds us of the greatest turning point in history—the moment when what was broken was made whole again. *On the cross*, Jesus bore the weight of our sin. *In the tomb*, it seemed all hope was lost. But on the third day, the stone was rolled away, and *Jesus rose in victory*. Through His death, burial, and resurrection, the separation between God and man was overcome, and the door to reconciliation was opened (Romans 5:10; 1 Peter 3:18).

The resurrection is more than an event to remember—it is a mission to carry forward.

After His resurrection, Jesus didn't withdraw—He *connected*. He appeared to Mary in her grief, walked alongside discouraged disciples on the road to Emmaus, and stood among His followers offering peace and purpose. He met people where they were and drew them back to God with love, truth, and hope.

In the same way, *we are called to be people of connection*. Because we have experienced the power of the resurrection, we now carry its message to others. A simple invitation, a heartfelt conversation, or a compassionate act can open the door for someone to encounter Christ.

Easter is not just about what Jesus has done for us—it is about what He continues to do through us. As people who have been reconnected to God, we have the privilege of helping others find their way back to Him. Seek out someone today—you'll be blessed!

--Les Keele



SHEPHERDS

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Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Steve Taylor

Song Leader - David Birdow

Song - We Praise Thee, O God

Song - Love Lifted Me

Song - We're Marching to Zion

Opening Prayer - Not Available

Scripture - Matthew 28:1-6

Song - Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed?

Lord's Supper - Adam Power

Prayer For Contribution - Adam Power

Song - Heavenly Sunlight

The Resurrection Speaks - Gary Williams

Song - There's A Fountain Free

Announcements - Gary Williams

Shepherd's Prayer and Dismissal - Dan Kille

Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.



**Our Code For
Tithley**

**Our Code For
Attendance**



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, April 6

Deuteronomy 15-16; Proverbs 6

Tuesday, April 7

Deuteronomy 17-18; Proverbs 7

Wednesday, April 8

Psalm 128; Deuteronomy 19-20; Proverbs 8

Thursday, April 9

Deuteronomy 21-22; Proverbs 9

Friday, April 10

Philemon; Deuteronomy 23; Proverbs 10

Saturday, April 11

Psalm 49; Deuteronomy 24-25; Proverbs 11

Sunday, April 12

Psalm 19; Deuteronomy 26-27; Proverbs 12

Monday, April 13

Deuteronomy 28; Proverbs 13

LAST WEEK

Sunday		Wednesday	98
Bible Class	138	On-Line	2
Worship	271	Contribution	\$27,740.44
Thai-Lao	30	Budget	\$15,372.28
On-Line	15		

TIMES OF ASSEMBLIES

Bible Class	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM