

The Event That Changed the World

1 Corinthians 15:14, 17; John 20:24–29

Did Jesus really rise—and if He did, what does that demand of me? The Gospel includes an empty tomb. If Christ is not risen, our faith is vain and we are still in our sins.

1 Examine the evidence

- Jesus _____. John 19:33 records that He was already dead. The suggestion that He merely fainted does not explain a victorious, risen Savior.
- The tomb was _____, and people said they saw Him alive. An empty tomb alone is not enough; consider it alongside the reported appearances (1 Corinthians 15:3–8).
- People were radically _____. Peter moved from fearful denial to public preaching. James moved from skepticism to faith. Paul moved from persecuting Christians to proclaiming Christ.

Paul reports appearances to individuals and groups, including more than five hundred at once, many still living when he wrote (1 Corinthians 15:6).

2 Ask what best explains the _____

- Merely fainting — Does not adequately account for Jesus' execution and the disciples' conviction that He conquered death.
- Hallucinations — Must account for the reported appearances to different people and groups, as well as the empty tomb.
- The wrong tomb — Raises the question of why the body was not produced.
- A stolen body — Requires the disciples to suffer for a story they knew they had invented.

Willingness to suffer shows conviction; it does not by itself prove a belief true. The lesson's conclusion is that Jesus' resurrection best explains the evidence.

Notes

READY APOLOGETICS WEEKEND

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND HOW TO ANSWER

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3 A risen Christ demands a _____

Thomas wanted evidence. Jesus showed him His wounds and called him to believe. Thomas answered, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:24–29).

Knowing the right answer on a Bible test is different from personally responding to Jesus. What do I believe about Him?

4 What He did _____ who He was

Jesus claimed authority to forgive sins, to be the way to the Father, and equality with God. His resurrection validates His identity. He is Lord and has a claim on my life.

5 Who He was _____ what He did

Because the One on the cross was the Son of God, His death has saving significance. The resurrection validates the cross: Jesus can forgive sin and give eternal life.

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” — John 1:29

6 What will I do with _____

Jesus’ authority reaches beyond chapel, Bible class, youth group, or Sunday worship. He has a claim on my relationships, choices, sexuality, ambitions, identity, plans, and future.

A risen Christ deserves more than my acknowledgment. He deserves my allegiance.

What will you do with Jesus?

Notes
