

Title of the Message: ***The implication of the Resurrection of Jesus***

We gather today to celebrate the most pivotal event in human history: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. To understand its magnitude, imagine this with me...a championship game...

Picture a championship game.

- The clock is ticking down to zero, and your favorite team, the one you've poured your heart and soul into, is down by a huge margin. Their star player is sidelined, every strategy has failed, and the opposing team's fans are already chanting victory. The air is thick with despair.
- The stadium is emptying, fans shaking their heads, sports commentators are writing the post-game analysis, already declaring utter defeat. Every single expert, every single statistic, every single person watching, knows it's over. *Doubt* hangs heavy over the faces of the few remaining loyal supporters, and the *detractors*—the critics, the opposing team's jubilant fans—are absolutely convinced they've won.
- Then, in the absolute final, impossible seconds, something happens that defies all logic, all expectation. A last-second play, a miraculous shot, an unbelievable turn of events. The buzzer sounds, and against every conceivable odd, against all hope, your team wins.

In that instant, the entire atmosphere is transformed.

- The crushing weight of defeat is lifted. The doubt that paralyzed everyone vanishes. The loud, celebrating detractors are suddenly, absolutely silent. And the players, who were just moments ago hanging their heads in despair, are now *charged* with an electrifying, unbelievable victory, ready to erupt in celebration and proclaim what just happened to anyone who will listen.

That, my friends, is just a glimpse, a faint echo, of what the Resurrection of Jesus Christ meant.

- For His followers, for those who opposed Him, and for the entire course of eternity. The Resurrection was God's ultimate game-changer. It was the moment when **Doubt was Dispelled**, when **Detractors were Discredited**, and when His **Disciples were Deployed** with a mission that would change the world.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ dramatically transformed lives, empowering believers and silencing opposition.

The implication of the Resurrection of Jesus

Strengthened the Skeptics (Matthew 28:1,10,16-17)

Matthew Records Mary Magdalen and another Mary coming to the Tomb... vs 1

Matthew 28:1 - Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*.

Matthew 28:5 - ⁵ But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

Matthew 28:8 - ⁸ So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

Matthew 28:9 - ⁹ And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go *and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

These Ladies are the first to arrive at the Tomb

- More than likely to anoint Jesus's body - To their dismay, his body was gone.
- In Luke's Gospel Account, He says they were "***...greatly perplexed...***" (means ***entirely at a loss***)
 - They were asking: What has happened to Jesus' body?
 - They ran and told the disciples ...

Peter and John ran to the tomb

- Luke's Gospel records that the story of the resurrection was to the disciples "***...like idol tales...***"
- Even after going to the tomb, it was said of Peter that he "...marveling to himself at what had happened." (The word means to be astonished or amazed, to have a sense of wonder.)

Disciples on the Road to Emmaus

- Two walking together talking about the events of the weekend, The Bible says, "Jesus drew near" (spoiler alert, even in your disillusionment, dismay and discouragement, Jesus draws near)
- Jesus asks them why are you sad? To which they reply, You're not from around here, are ya?
 - Things concerning Jesus – Prophet might in word and deed
 - He is dead...we were hoping He was going to redeem Israel.
 - It's been 3 days
- **Luke 24:22** - ²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."
- ²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

You put all the accounts together and you get the picture of a group of people who were full of doubt and dismay

- We have the advantage of hindsight – Always 20/20 right
- We know how the story ends.
- Followers of Jesus were everything from Distraught to Dismayed, to disillusioned

- Disappointed , disbelief, discouraged, and probably a little disoriented

Matthew 28:6 - He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Silenced the Scoffers (Matthew 28:11-15)

Matthew 28:11 - Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. ¹² When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Notice again Mt 28:11 – These guard did not go to their superiors – They did not run to Pilate

- Verse 11 – They went to the Chief Priests – They knew that these religious leaders would be just as anxious to cover up the miracle as the soldiers

Possible Explanations: The Disciples Stole Jesus' Body

- It was in the best interest of both parties that this was not reported as a Resurrection
- One commentator said, "This actually proves the resurrection: If Jesus' body was stolen, then it was taken either by His friends or His enemies. His friends could not have done it since they had left the scene and were convinced that Jesus was dead. His enemies would not steal His body because belief in His resurrection was what they were trying to prevent. They would have defeated their own purposes if they had removed His body. And, if they had taken it, why did they not produce it and silence the witness of the early church?"
- Anyone who stole the body would have taken the body in the graveclothes. Yet the empty graveclothes were left in the tomb in an orderly manner. This was hardly the scene of a grave robbery.
- Mark Twain once wrote that a lie can go around the world while truth is still lacing up her boots. There is something in human nature that makes it easy for people to believe lies. It was not until the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, and the powerful witness of the apostles, that the Jews in Jerusalem discovered the truth: Jesus Christ is alive! Any sincere person who studies this evidence with an open heart will conclude that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a historic fact that cannot be refuted. (Wiersbe, *Be Loyal (Mt)*: pp. 267-268).

This is just one of Possible Explanations that began to circulate

Jesus didn't die on the cross.

- Muslims hold to this today – A man who looked like Jesus
- Another version states that Jesus didn't actually die, but was hurt really, really badly
- The theory claims that Jesus fainted; the soldiers just thought Jesus was dead, took him off the cross, and he later regained consciousness and escaped the tomb
- It assumes that Jesus went through six trials, no sleep, a brutal scourging, thorns thrust into His head, nails thrust into His hands and feet, and after hours on a cross, He had a spear thrust into

His side. Then, as if that weren't enough, He was wrapped in grave clothes and put in a tomb with a large stone rolled over the entrance. This tomb was guarded by armed Roman soldiers. In that situation and in that physical condition, are we really expected to believe that Jesus regained consciousness, stealthily nudged the stone out of the way, quietly hopped out of the tomb, tiptoed past the guards standing nearby, and coolly went about His way? This scenario seems highly unlikely, if not ridiculous. Needless to say, we can safely label this explanation as implausible. (Platt, *Exalting Jesus: Mt.* KL 6766)

Jesus' tomb was not empty.

- The Women went to the wrong tomb...and everyone else followed
- One would think the soldiers would not have guarded the wrong tomb
- If someone would have identified the correct tomb, the entire Christian movement would have been shut down before it got started.

The disciples were delusional when they claimed to see Jesus.

- They just thought they encountered a living Jesus – They were hallucination...
- One commentator pointed out that unlike reported miracles today, this was more than one individual claiming to have seen the Risen Christ – Multitudes of people, multiple times
- The Apostle Paul said in ***1 Corinthians 15:5-6*** - and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.
- Paul says, "Go ask them what they saw. You can verify this!"
- These claims of the resurrection could

Jesus died on the cross and actually rose from the grave. (Platt, *Exalting Jesus: Mt.* KL 6688)

The Resurrection of Jesus stands as the most plausible explanation for the dramatic events that followed. As N. T. Wright notes, the early Christians neither invented the empty tomb nor the encounters with the risen Jesus; such ideas were unprecedented and unlikely to be fabricated (Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*, 707).

Consider these historically accepted facts:

- **Jesus died by crucifixion.**
- **His followers genuinely believed He rose from the grave and appeared to them.**
- **The lives of these followers were radically transformed as a direct result of these beliefs.**

This transformation was so profound that even staunch opponents of Christianity, like Paul, became its most fervent advocates after encountering the resurrected Christ. Scholar Gary Habermas highlights that when we examine the eyewitness experiences of the disciples, James, and Paul, along with their radical changes and consistent message, "the historical Resurrection [of Jesus] becomes the best explanation for the facts, especially because the alternative theories have failed" (as cited in Boa and Bowman, *Faith Has Its Reasons*, 196).

From the earliest days, attempts were made to explain away the Resurrection, but every alternative explanation has consistently fallen short. If the Resurrection is true, if Jesus indeed died and rose, the implications for our lives are profound. (Platt, *Exalting Jesus: Mt. KL 6842*)

Some of may be a little skeptical – Invited by a friend / you are struggling with this – I understand

Billy Graham said, "The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is one of the best attested facts on record. There were so many witnesses to behold it, that if we do in the least degree receive the credibility of men's testimonies, we cannot and we dare not doubt that Jesus rose from the dead."

"Why would the apostles lie? Would you die for a Lie?

- If they lied, what was their motive, what did they get out of it? What they got out of it was misunderstanding, rejection, persecution, torture, and martyrdom. Hardly a list of perks!"

John Stott said, "There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three."

1 Corinthians 15:20 - But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- In 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, the Apostle Paul passionately argues for the absolute necessity and reality of Christ's bodily resurrection. He confronts those who denied a future resurrection of the dead, explaining that if there is no resurrection, then Christ himself could not have been raised.
- Paul then outlines the devastating consequences if Christ had not risen from the dead:
 - Their preaching would be meaningless, and their faith would be empty (1 Corinthians 15:14).
 - The apostles would be found to be liars, misrepresenting God by testifying that He raised Christ (1 Corinthians 15:15).
 - Believers would still be lost in their sins, as there would be no atonement for them (1 Corinthians 15:17).
 - Those who had died believing in Christ would have perished eternally (1 Corinthians 15:18).
 - Christians, having hope only in this earthly life, would be the most miserable of all people (1 Corinthians 15:19).
- However, Paul concludes this section with a triumphant declaration: (1 Cor. 15:20)" But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."
- This foundational truth assures believers of their own future resurrection and the certainty of their salvation. The resurrection of Jesus is not merely an event in history; it is the cornerstone of Christian faith and hope.

Strengthened the Skeptics (Matthew 28:1,10,16-17)

Silenced the Scoffers (Matthew 28:11-15)

The Truth of the Resurrection Brings Hope and Peace and Purpose

Sends His Servants (Matthew 28:18-20)

Matthew 28:16 - Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

All Authority: *If Jesus did not raise from the dead, we don't have to worry about anything He said, because it was a lie: But if Jesus rose from the dead, then we must accept everything He said, because His authority is absolute!*

- **He has authority over life and death – John 10:18** - No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."
- **He has authority over Sin and Satan – I Cor. 15:55-57** = "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **He has authority over you and Me! – Romans 10:9-13** - that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

This is Our Purpose

Matthew 28:19 - ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, ~~even to the end of the age.~~ Amen.

This is called the Great Commission – Carry the Hope giving good news to the ends of the Earth!

- ***His Final Words – Our First Work - Christianity is a Missionary Faith***
 - ***God so loved the World that He gave His only begotten son – John 3:16***
 - ***God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance – 2 Peter 3:9***
- ***Make Disciples – Disciple is "apprentice" Listening to Him, Learning from Him, Living for Him.***
- ***A disciple is one who believes in Jesus, expresses this faith by being baptized, and remains in fellowship with other believers.***

This is Our Peace – Mt. 28:20b

Matthew 28:20 - ²⁰ ~~teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.~~ Amen.

His Presence always goes with us!

With Which of these categories would you most closely identify?

Skeptical –

Scoffer –

Servant

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!

"Because the tomb is empty, Doubt is silenced, Darkness is shattered, and Disciples are sent!"

1. Repent and Believe in Jesus: Call upon Him for Salvation

2. Reaffirm Your Faith:

- If you've been harboring doubts, take time this week to reflect on the historical facts of the Resurrection. Read through Matthew 28 again, pray for clarity, and ask God to strengthen your belief in the Risen Christ, knowing that His presence dispels all fear and doubt. (Romans 10:17)

3. Resolve to Live a Transformed Life:

- The Resurrection radically changed the lives of Jesus' followers. Let this powerful truth transform *your* life. Repent of any sin, seek His grace and forgiveness, and strive to live a life that reflects the joy, hope, and purpose found in knowing the Risen Savior. (Romans 6:4; Ephesians 4:22-24)
- Jesus' resurrection didn't just give us hope; it gave us a mission. Reflect on how God might be calling you to "go and make disciples" in your daily life—whether it's sharing your faith with a friend, serving in your church, or showing Christ's love to your neighbors. (Matthew 28:19-20)

This article by [Kyle Tucker](#) presents a case for the historical reliability of the resurrection of Jesus by focusing on three main pillars of evidence.

1. The Empty Tomb

The author argues that the empty tomb is a "mainstream view" among historians today. Key points include:

- **Multiple Independent Accounts:** Evidence is cited from [Mark 16:1–8](#), [John 20:1–10](#), and [1 Corinthians 15:3–5](#).
- **Testimony of Women:** Tucker highlights that in the ancient world, a woman's testimony was often not considered legal evidence. The fact that the Gospels include them as the primary witnesses suggests the authors were reporting what they believed to be true rather than inventing a more "convincing" story for that era.
- **Failed Counter-Explanations:** The piece dismisses theories that the body was stolen or that the women went to the wrong tomb, citing scholars like [N. T. Wright](#).

2. Post-Resurrection Appearances

The article notes that the reports of Jesus appearing to his followers are:

- **Diverse and Widespread:** Appearances are recorded to individuals like Mary Magdalene, Peter, and groups like "the Twelve."
- **Early and Sincere:** Paul's writings in [1 Corinthians 15](#) are dated to before AD 51, providing a very early record of these claims.
- **Costly Conviction:** Tucker argues the disciples' willingness to face social ostracization and execution suggests they sincerely believed they had seen the risen Christ.

3. The "Eucatastrophe"

The author concludes by framing the resurrection not just as a historical event, but as a source of hope. He references [J. R. R. Tolkien](#) to describe the event as a "eucatastrophe"—a sudden, miraculous turn from disaster to joy that promises a future renewal of all creation.

Would you like me to find more articles by [Kyle Tucker](#) or perhaps other resources on the [historical evidence for the Bible](#)?