



2: Dead Man Walking

The crucifixion without the resurrection ends with another wanna-be messiah killed by the Romans. But something transformed the fearful followers of Jesus into fearless followers - a **Dead Man Walking**. And *if He rose from the dead, we can trust what He said...* about everything.

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teachingnotes

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VISUAL NOTES



The Risen Jesus is the FOUNDATION that our faith is built on!

BIG TRUTH: He rose from the dead, we can trust what He said

...about EVERYTHING! - relationships with God & people, money & material possessions, sin & forgiveness, heaven & hell. If Jesus *DIDN'T RISE* from the dead, then Christianity crumbles.

The Foundation of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (NLT) But tell me this—since **we preach that Christ rose from the dead**, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And **if Christ has not been raised**, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And **we apostles would all be lying** about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

➡ Christianity rests on the reality of A **Dead Man Walking!**

Jesus was crucified because **People are Precious, Sin is Serious, & God is Gracious**.

- **People are Precious**, created in the image of God - intended to be image bearers who remind us of the God who made us, created to be creative, passionate, and pure people who love, serve, and walk with the Creator.
- **Our Sin is Serious**. Our sin must be punished, because...a Good God is JUST & doesn't simply write off our wrongs.
- **God is Gracious**. God loves to forgive and restore people to know Him and make Him known, to be His image bearers once again. The cross is where God's justice and God's graciousness met. Sin was fully paid for and fully forgiven!

Jesus was dead and it looked like all was lost. There was no funeral and His closest friends wouldn't have come anyway, hiding out behind locked doors in fear of the people who had Jesus killed (Jn 20:19). And even though Jesus had told them He would rise again on several different occasions, they didn't think it would happen.

WHY NOT?

Had they forgotten when:

- Jesus raised a 12 year old girl back to life (Lk 8:41-42, 49-56).
- What about the man that He raised during the funeral procession to the cemetery (Lk 7:11-17)?
- What about Lazarus, the guy who had been dead and buried for four days (Jn 11)?

Jesus said He would raise from the dead

Matthew 16:21 (NLT) From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, **but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.**

Matthew 17:22-23 (NLT) After they gathered again in Galilee, Jesus told them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, **but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.**" And the disciples were filled with grief.

Matthew 20:18-19 (NLT) "Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. **But on the third day he will be raised from the dead.**"

The tomb of Jesus was certainly empty on that Sunday morning, what happened to the body? If the tomb *was still occupied* then all that was needed was to parade the corpse around Jerusalem, and Christianity would never have been known to you and me.

What are the options for the missing body?

- **Stolen Body?** That was the first counter to the claim that Jesus had risen (Mt 28:11-15). Fishermen and a tax collector overpowered Roman soldiers? Then what? Bury Jesus' body somewhere else and later be severely persecuted and even DIE...for a LIE? If you KNEW where his body was, wouldn't you give it up when persecution came? Someone would! People don't DIE for what they know to be a LIE.

☀ **Chuck Colson:** "I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world-and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."

- **Swoon/Resuscitation?** Some claim that Jesus never died, but only *swooned* - looked to be dead, but was still alive. The Romans knew how to kill people. During the time of Jesus there were over 30,000 Jews who were crucified by the Romans. *What about the spear shoved into Jesus' chest* (Jn 19:34)? *What if Jesus survived all that?* Jesus somehow unwrapped himself, moved the 2000 lb stone without a lever - uphill - with holes in his wrists and feet, and then quietly slipped past the Roman soldiers, and conned his disciples that he was alive. Have you ever SEEN someone a couple of days after being beaten badly? Do they look *BETTER* or *WORSE*?

*Book to Read: **Evidence for the Resurrection** (Josh & Sean McDowell)¹



*Article to Read: **What is the Swoon Theory?**²

- **Resurrection?** Multiple people claimed they saw a Dead Man Walking - the same Jesus who had been beaten, brutalized, and crucified just a few days before. If the disciples of Jesus were making up the story of Jesus resurrecting, then they used some super strange tactics.

🔍 **The gospels all claim that the first people to see the risen Jesus were WOMEN!** Why's that a BIG DEAL? In that day, women's testimony was not considered reliable in a court of law.³ So, if we were making up a story to make it as credible as possible, **why would all 4 Gospel accounts mention women as the first to see the risen Jesus** (Mt 28:1-10; Mk 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-12; Jn 20:1-18)? Why would they say that...unless it's TRUE?

🔍 **Some of the disciples were skeptical at first** (Mt 28:17). Why mention this...unless it's TRUE? At first they thought this was some kind of ghostly experience. While behind locked doors, Jesus appeared right in front of them! So Jesus showed them His hands, feet and wound in His side (Jn 20:19-20), and just to show them that He wasn't a ghost, He asked them for some fish and ate it in front of them (Lk 24:38-43).

- ✓ Convinced that Jesus was ALIVE, these men and women carried His message to millions, even when it cost them, all because...**If He rose from the dead, we can trust what He said.**

¹ https://www.amazon.com/Evidence-Resurrection-Josh-McDowell/dp/0830747850/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=evidence+for+the+resurrection&qid=1650134893&srefix=evidence+for+resurr%2Caps%2C158&sr=8-1

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/swoon-theory.html>

³ Douglas Sean O'Donnell, Matthew: All Authority in Heaven and on Earth, ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 899.

Paul, former Critic and Persecutor of Christianity

1 Corinthians 15:3-9 (NLT) I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and **He was raised from the dead** on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. **He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.** After that, He was seen by more than 500 of His followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then He was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, **I also saw Him.** For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.

The appearance of Jesus changed the direction of James' life.

- **James** (better translated as *Jacob* from Greek), the half brother of Jesus thought Jesus was "out of his mind" at one point and didn't believe Him (Mk 3:21, Jn 7:5), but later calls Jesus his Lord!

The appearance of Jesus changed the direction of Paul's life.

- Until Jesus appeared to him, **Paul** once killed followers of Jesus and had them thrown into jail. *WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT GUY?* Did Paul follow Jesus for more luxury, comfort, and fame? NOPE. It cost him dearly - sometimes being beaten and running for his life. Ultimately beheaded. *WHY?* He saw a DEAD MAN WALKING - the Risen Jesus!

Paul lived for Jesus the rest of his life, believing that...**If Jesus rose from the dead, he could trust what He said...**about EVERYTHING! - relationships with God & people, money & material possessions, sin & forgiveness, heaven & hell.

❓ Are you READY for ETERNITY? ***What difference does the Risen Jesus make in your daily life?***

Feet to Faith

- Talk with staff or deacons or another Christian. Our numbers are in your NOTES.
- Plug into a Church that will help you build friendships and grow in Jesus.
- Get in the Scriptures. 1 Chapter a day.
- Not ready for that yet, will you at least **EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE?** Pick up a copy of *More Than a Carpenter*.

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047),

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain your answer.
2. **Read 1 Corinthians 15.** How significant is the resurrection of Jesus? If He didn't rise, how should that impact a person who claims to follow Jesus? How should the Risen Jesus impact our words, thoughts, & actions this week?
3. Why should the conversion of people like **James** and **Paul** cause us to pause and ask, "What happened to those guys, that they would move from skeptics or enemies to become devoted followers of Jesus, who risked their lives to tell others about Him?"
4. Consider our **BIG TRUTH: If He rose from the dead, we can trust what He said...on everything.** If this is the case, why is it so important to spend time reading the Scriptures? Is there anything that Jesus teaches that you have had to trust Him with, even though you don't necessarily like it? Explain your answer.
5. **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.** Continue to pray for our Supreme Court decision on Roe v Wade. Pray for Christians in Ukraine and Russia to carry the message of Jesus with them wherever they go. Also, PRAY that God will greatly use us during this Easter season, to impact people who need to follow Jesus.