

SERMON SINGLES

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

He's Alive

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

INTRODUCTION

Today, we are going to deal with the doubt people have about Jesus being raised from the dead. Either like every other person who has lived and died, Jesus is still dead or he is physically still alive. A man named Paul went through unbelievable torture, hardship, and finally a beheading because he preached and believed and would not deny that Jesus Christ was alive. In a letter he wrote to a church in Corinth, he laid out what would be true if Jesus was not alive and if everything he said was either an intentional lie or a bad mistake. If Jesus is not alive it has a tremendous impact on whether you are a believer or not. If Jesus is dead nothing else matters, but if He is alive it is the only thing that matters. Knowing that either He was raised or He wasn't, I want us to answer two questions in this message. When we are finished, I can assure you that your doubt will be destroyed and your faith will be fortified.

KEY POINTS

1. What Is The Problem If Jesus Is Still Dead?

In the 15th chapter of I Corinthians, Paul lays out five things that would be absolutely true if Jesus Christ was still dead.

- Our preaching would be pointless.
- Our faith would be fruitless.
- Our testimony would be truthless.
- Our heart would be hopeless.
- Our death would be dauntless.

2. What Is The Proof That Jesus Is Alive?

I am going to give you four pieces of proof surrounding Jesus' life. This is not just what I say. This is what the vast majority of scholars agree to regarding the life of Jesus, including those who are not believers.

- Jesus died on a Roman cross and was buried in a tomb.
- The tomb was empty on that Sunday morning
- Numerous eye-witnesses testified even at the risk of punishment and death that they saw Jesus alive and met with Him and even ate with Him.
- All eleven disciples and the Apostle Paul (who was the mortal enemy of Christians at first) were convinced that Jesus was alive and died because of the transformation that took place in their lives.

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NOTES

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Of these four proofs of the resurrection of Jesus, understand it is an incontrovertible fact that Jesus actually did die on the cross. He	NOTES
had been beaten, whipped, nailed to a cross through His hands and feet, exposed naked all day, speared through his chest, and declared dead by a Roman centurion. He had been embalmed with over 80 pounds of chemicals, and His body was sealed in a tomb.	
So there is no doubt that Jesus was dead, but the question is "Did He stay dead?" and if He didn't, where is the proof? Well, here are three pieces of evidence you can't ignore.	
 The empty tomb. The eyewitness testimonies. The external transformation. 	

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. How would your life look different if Jesus hadn't been raised from the dead?
- 2. What did you learn from today's message about the proof of the resurrection that you didn't already know?
- 3. How does knowing the proof of Jesus' resurrection motivate you to share the gospel with others?