



## **Easter Sunday**

**Date: April 17, 2022**

### **Matthew 28:1-10**

Christianity rises or falls on whether or not Jesus was resurrected  
**1 Corinthians 15:14**

**Big Idea: You can trust in Jesus because He rose from the dead!**

We will look at 3 RESULTS of Jesus resurrection

#### **Pt. 1: WE CAN TRUST IN JESUS' WORDS**

What we say is important. Words show a person's character. Some of the things that Jesus said seemed confusing to His followers, other times, Jesus amazed people with His teachings about how they could be forgiven because of who He was. In Matthew 16:1–4 that, He said His resurrection would be the "sign" that authenticated His ministry. His resurrection proved that His words are trustworthy. So in **John 11:25**, when Jesus said, **"I am the resurrection and the life"**, We can trust Him that He does more than give life; He is life, and that's why death has no power over Him.

Death is the strongest force in the universe apart from God Himself. Therefore, the clearest way that Jesus can demonstrate His unmatched power is by overcoming and defeating death. He did exactly that by rising from the dead. **Revelation 1:18**

Only the one who is victorious over death can offer salvation. So, when we read in the scriptures that no one gets to heaven except through Jesus, we can trust those words because Jesus rose from the dead!

#### **Pt 2: WE CAN BE FORGIVEN OF OUR SINS**

On the cross, Jesus paid the ransom that we could not pay. His resurrection validated that the payment was accepted. His death and resurrection provided a way for us to be forgiven. **Colossians 2:13**

**11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. (Romans 8:11 NIV)**

That verse says that if we've chosen Christ as our Savior, we'll be given life to our mortal bodies. At first glance, it seems like this verse is talking about our current physical bodies, but it isn't. **Philippians 3:20-21** clarifies this for us.

### **Pt. 3: WE CAN BE RESURRECTED TOO!**

God promises that those trust in Christ will be given a body that is made to last for eternity – an immortal body. We will have bodies like Jesus – We will never experience sickness, decay, deterioration, or death. **1 John 3:2**

The accounts of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances give us a glimpse of what our resurrection bodies will be like. We see similarities and differences between what Jesus' body was like before death and what His resurrection body is like. His followers recognized Him, they could physically touch Him. He could eat, drink, sit, and talk, yet there were distinct differences. He could travel effortlessly and appear and disappear at will. He could go through walls, and He ascended to heaven in a cloud.

Christ rising from the dead is the guarantee of the reality and the quality of the resurrection to come. He is the "first fruits" of our harvest **1 Corinthians 15:20-23**. Jesus rose never to die again. He is the first fruit of our harvest; we are the rest of the harvest!

While that is great news for followers of Jesus, there is alarming news for those who reject Jesus. Jesus' resurrection is so powerful that it causes everyone to receive resurrection bodies. **John 5:28-29**. Where you spend eternity in that resurrection body, all has to do with what you did with Jesus. Those who put their trust in Jesus will spend eternity with Him in heaven. As we saw earlier, anyone who chooses to reject him will spend eternity separated from Him in hell.

All men have sinned and have fallen short of God's perfect standard. And because of that, we're separated from God. That's the bad news. But there is good news – Jesus left heaven and came to earth, He died on a cross, taking our punishment, and rose again so that whoever puts their faith in Him for their salvation won't have to be separated from him anymore - they'll get to spend eternity in heaven with Him.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **How has Jesus' resurrection impacted the course of history?**
- **Why is it important that the disciples continued to affirm Jesus' resurrection while they faced execution?**
- **How significant is it that Jesus rose on the feast of first fruits? Was that a celebration that foreshadowed his resurrection?**
- **How do other Jewish holidays point to Jesus?**
- **What are you looking forward to the most about a resurrection body?**