

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

If He Really Did Rise From The Grave, What Difference Does It Make?

Luke 24:1-6

Slide 2:

Luke 24:1-5 (ESV)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."

Slide 3:

We know Jesus lived and died, but was he actually resurrected from the dead?

Possible Theories:

1) Hallucination Theory

Slide 4:

Possible Theories:

- 1) Hallucination Theory
- 2) The Swoon Theory

Slide 5:

Possible Theories:

- 1) Hallucination Theory
- 2) The Swoon Theory

3) The Wrong Tomb Theory

Slide 6:

Possible Theories:

- 1) Hallucination Theory
- 2) The Swoon Theory

3) The Wrong Tomb Theory

4) Stolen Body Theory

Slide 7:

Matthew 28:11-13 (ESV)

While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'"

Slide 8:

Possible Theories:

- 1) Hallucination Theory
- 2) The Swoon Theory

- 3) The Wrong Tomb Theory
- 4) Stolen Body Theory
- 5) The Lying Pact Theory

Slide 9:

What about us? What difference does it make?

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Read Luke 24:1-6. Is there a storyteller in your group? Think and talk about the moods and feelings that would have been present in these women as they made their way to the tomb to tend to the decaying body of their beloved leader. What emotions were present when angels (sons of God) appear in their midst? What would they have thought about the news they were told by the angels?

2) If Jesus really did rise from the grave what difference does it make?

a) **For Them.** Think about their lives before and after this news. Think about the transformation in all of the disciples and followers. If nothing really changed about their circumstances and the culture in which they lived, why did they seem different? What was it about the resurrection that made their circumstances, and the cultural systems lose power in their lives to define their moods, vision and identity? How do we balance that new freedom with our responsibility to still engage and redeem our world?

b) **For Us.** So what about our lives? Were you excited about the resurrection this past week? Why or why not? How much power do your own circumstances and the brokenness of the surrounding culture affect your feelings of freedom and contentment? Why do you think the resurrection of Jesus Christ means less to you than it could or should? How do you plan to grow in it?

3) Prayer and praise