

Lifeline

Jesus is Your Savior In Everything

Luke 24:1-12

On this very unusual Easter weekend, I want to make it crystal clear what your lifeline is tied to. What confidence & assurances do you have that your Lifeline will stand the test of life? And I want to show you that your Lifeline out of Destruction, Sin & Heartlessness is tied to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead nearly 2,000 years ago. You see...

Jesus can be your Lifeline in Everything because He is Alive

“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 & 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. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men & be crucified & on the third day rise.’ And they remembered his words, & returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven & to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene & Joanna & Mary the mother of James & the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, & they did not believe them. But Peter rose & ran to the tomb; stooping & looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; & he went home marveling at what had happened.” **Luke 24:1-12**

I. The Resurrection is an Anchor that is Historical

“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain & your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile & you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” **1 Corinthians 15:14-19**

Nearly every historical scholar in the world affirms the following four facts about Jesus:

- 1) Jesus died by crucifixion,
- 2) Jesus' tomb was empty on Sunday morning,
- 3) Jesus' closest friends actually believed that he had risen from the dead and had appeared to them, &
- 4) Authentic conversion of Saul of Tarsus because he believed Jesus was alive and had appeared to him.

Do these four facts prove that Jesus rose from the dead? No, but the way historians determine the historicity of an event is by a method called *inference to the best explanation*. This is where we begin with the evidence available to us & then infer what would, if true, provide the best explanation of that evidence. We accept an event as historical if it gives us the best explanation for the evidence surrounding it.

“These three great facts – the resurrection appearances, the empty tomb, & the origin of the Christian faith – all point unavoidably to one conclusion: the resurrection of Jesus.” **William Lane Craig (Philosopher)**

II. The Resurrection is an Anchor that Inspires Awe -

“And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things & be rejected by the elders & the chief priests & the scribes & be killed, & after three days rise again.” **Mark 8:31**

Where is God during the Coronavirus Crisis? Some say God could end this crisis in a moment, but He doesn't because He's not good. Others say that God wants to end it, he's doing the best he can & it's out of His hands. Both are wrong & misguided. God is neither hateful nor helpless...How do I know?

Cross: Proof, more sure than circumstances, that God is Love!

Resurrection: Proof, more sure than circumstances, that God is in Control!

Inspires Awe: The angel's presence & explanation *terrified* the ladies. Peter thought God was finished with him, until he saw the empty tomb, and he went away *marveling* at the thought that Jesus could be alive.

III. The Resurrection is an Anchor that Changes Everything

“Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, & unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise & glory & honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 1:3-7

What Anchor is Your Lifeline Tied To? We all have a lifeline (something we're holding on to for safety, security, comfort, peace & our future). What's yours tied to? What kind of anchor do you have? Where is your lifeline tied?

I have bet everything in my life & eternity on the belief that Jesus really did die for my sins & physically rose three days later! That's my anchor; it's the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And there's room for you!

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *1001 Humorous Illustrations* – Michael Hodgkin (1994)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *NAC: Luke* – R.H. Stein (1992)
- *The Gospel of Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Luke for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2004)
- *Holman Commentary: Luke* – Trent. C. Butler (2000)
- *Luke: That You May Know the Truth* – Kent Hughes (1998)
- *MacArthur NT Commentary: Luke* – John MacArthur (2011)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Historical Evidence for the Resurrection* – William L. Craig (1985)

