The Gospel of John: Light in the Darkness "I Have Seen the Lord!" John 20:11-18

John 20:1-10 Luke 24:1-12

I Corinthians 15:3-5 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

I Corinthians 15:16-19 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

The Apologetics of the Resurrection

From Scrivener, 3 2 1 The story of God, the World and You

Jesus lived in 1st century Israel and drew a substantial following
Jesus was known by both friends and foes as a wonder-worker
Jesus fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies, many of which would have been out of his control

Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Palestine Jesus died and was buried
On Sunday morning, the tomb in which he was buried was empty

Jesus' followers had many and various experiences of seeing Jesus alive again Jesus' unimpressive followers were transformed into courageous preachers who testified that Jesus rose again from the dead

Many of these followers suffered martyrdom that they easily could have avoided by denying the physical resurrection of Jesus

Within weeks the church exploded in the very city where Jesus was buried No one ever found Jesus' body, despite the authorities and foes having every incentive to produce it

Christianity has been built on the historical claim of the resurrection

Funny story. The unicycle riding, Florida kid who medals while representing Ghana. Seems incredible, but then you can find the kid on YouTube. He even started a group of 29 kids in a unicycle riding club in northern Ghana. Seems impossible.

Medical doctors yesterday, all believe that Jesus Christ rose again from the dead.

Piecing the resurrection Sunday together.

The women head to the tomb on Sunday morning before dawn because they intend to anoint the body of Jesus and to mourn together.

They find the stone rolled away, the guards paralyzed with fear, and an angel with a message about the resurrected Jesus.

They run to tell the disciples.

Peter and John run to the tomb.

John arrives first, looks into the tomb, and finds it empty.

Peter arrives a few moments later, goes into the tomb, and finds the grave cloths along with the face clothed rolled up.

The disciples go back to where they were staying, marveling at what this could all mean.

Mary Magdalene comes back to the tomb and is the first to encounter the resurrected Jesus. Mary Magdalene tells the disciples that she has seen the resurrected Jesus.

Jesus walks with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. He spends hours instructing them from all of the scripture about the meaning of all that had happened.

Jesus appears to the disciples, without Thomas present.

John 20:11-12 But Mary was standing outside the tomb, weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.

John 20:13 And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him."

John 20:14-15 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and yet she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away."

John 20:16-17 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God."

John 20:18 Mary Magdalene came and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.

To feel the desperation of our situation
To encounter the resurrected Jesus
To worship Him and embrace Him
To them tell those around us "I have seen the Lord"
To have our lives transformed by these truths

The early church not only believed these truths, but felt a pressing need and desire to share these truths with the world. They wanted to world to experience the same transforming truth that they had experienced.

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