



The resurrection of Jesus is the FOUNDATION of Christian faith. More than a miracle working rabbi with some radical claims, the resurrection demonstrates that forgiveness & fullness are found in Jesus alone.

The disciples of Jesus had just experienced Passover with their Hero, and now He was suddenly GONE.

Jesus had been tried & convicted, mocked, beaten, spit upon, & scourged...**in Jerusalem.** He was marched to a place just outside the city to be crucified & died on a Roman cross. His body was buried in a cave just outside the city of Jerusalem.

Jesus' disciples MOURNED Him...they MISSED HIM. Some even wanted to touch His lifeless body one last time. And that's where we pick up in our ancient eyewitness account...

John 20:1-7 (NET)

¹ Now very early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance.² So she went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out to go to the tomb.⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first.⁵ He bent down and saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter, who had been following him, arrived and went right into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been around Jesus' head, not lying with the strips of linen cloth but rolled up in a place by itself.

Why would someone steal the body...and LEAVE the grave clothes? Thieves don't take the time to unwrap sticky burial cloths.

Critics might suggest this to fake a resurrection, but this makes no sense. Think about it. It was Jesus' closest disciples who had come to the tomb precisely because they thought Jesus' body HAD BEEN STOLEN - and they certainly didn't know who did it. Peter wasn't sure what was going on, but...

John 20:8-9 (NET)

⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, came in, and he saw and believed.⁹ (For they did not yet understand **the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.**)

They hadn't put it all together. They didn't understand **the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.** But in this moment, it suddenly begins to make sense for **the other disciple whom Jesus loved.**

After Jesus appeared alive on numerous occasions, and after seeing Jesus ascend to heaven (Acts 1), the Holy Spirit indwells & empowers the believers to share the message of The Risen King.

They didn't run off to some other place. **THEY STAYED IN JERUSALEM...the same place** Jesus had been tried, convicted, mocked, beaten, scourged, crucified, and buried.

Notice the difference.

- BEFORE the resurrection of Jesus they had been hiding in Jerusalem, afraid for their lives,
- **AFTER the resurrection** they were headed back to the same temple where Jesus had taught so many times, the place He had tossed the tables and run out the animals; the same place where Jesus' enemies had condemned Him - IN JERUSALEM!

Peter, John & the Paralyzed Beggar

Acts 3:6–8 (NET)

⁶ But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, stand up and walk!" ⁷ Then Peter took hold of him by the right hand and raised him up, and at once the man's feet and ankles were made strong.⁸ He jumped up, stood and began walking around, and he entered the temple courts with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

This story spread like wildfire and many Jews came to the temple to see it for themselves. They wanted an explanation and Peter stood up and began to tell the story of Jesus...in the city where Jesus had been condemned & crucified just over 1 month before.

The Gospel Message

Acts 3:15–20 (NET)

¹⁵ You killed **the Originator** [NIV, ESV: 'Author'] **of life, whom God raised from the dead**. To this fact we are witnesses!¹⁶ And on the basis of faith in Jesus' name, his very name has made this man—whom you see and know—strong. The faith that is through Jesus has given him this complete health in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ And now, brothers, I know you acted in ignorance, as your rulers did too. ¹⁸ But the things God foretold long ago through all the prophets—that his Christ would suffer—he has fulfilled in this way.

¹⁹ Therefore **repent and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out**, ²⁰ so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and so that he may send the Messiah appointed for you—that is, Jesus.

The disciples of Jesus were declaring:

- 🕉 Jesus was the **Originator/Author of Life, raised from the dead**.
- 🕉 Jesus was the **Christ/Messiah** the people had been waiting on
- 🕉 **Faith in the RISEN JESUS** had healed this man!...and ultimately, that...

BIG TRUTH: Forgiveness & Fullness are found in Jesus alone

THAT is the Gospel Message!

- We have sinned against a Holy God and need **forgiveness**. Jesus offers it.
- We all long for fullness in life: purpose & hope. This is found in Jesus.

This one event was so significant that more than 2000 people turned from the sins & trusted Jesus' death as payment for their sins! (see earlier number counted in Acts 2:41; then after this event - Acts 4:4).

Peter & John Arrested

Acts 4:5-6 (NET)

⁵ On the next day, their rulers, elders, and experts in the law came together in Jerusalem.

⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others who were members of the high priest's family.

Annas (former high priest) and **Caiaphas** (current high priest & son-in-law to Annas) were the same Jewish leaders who condemned Jesus before being sent to the Roman authority, Pilate (see John 18:12-14;19-24; 28). So here are the disciples of Jesus standing before the very same men who were responsible for killing their king. Before seeing the risen Jesus, Peter & John hid from these leaders. NOW how will they respond?

Acts 4:7-12 (NET)

⁷ After making Peter and John stand in their midst, they began to inquire, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, replied, "Rulers of the people and elders,⁹ if we are being examined today for a good deed done to a sick man—by what means this man was healed—¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that **by the name of Jesus Christ** the Nazarene whom you crucified, **whom God raised from the dead**, this man stands before you healthy. ¹¹ This **Jesus** is *the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, that has become the cornerstone.*¹² And **there is salvation in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given among people by which we must be saved."

- Let's recap: You **crucified** Jesus.
- Jesus was **raised from the dead**.
- **This man stands before you healthy** because Jesus is alive & able to heal him.

Forgiveness & Fullness are found in Jesus alone

3 QUESTIONS:

#1 Why didn't Anna & Caiaphas just lead a parade to the tomb of Jesus & produce the body?

- 🕒 The body of Jesus was no longer there and they knew it (Matthew 28:11-15).

#2: Why were Peter & John not hiding for their lives? How so bold?

- 🕒 The body of Jesus was no longer there and they knew it.

#3: How could this man, paralyzed all his life, be healed in the name of Jesus?

- 🕒 The body of Jesus was no longer in the tomb. Jesus was alive, *and this proved it*.

☀️ **Gary Habermas** (one of the best known scholars on the resurrection) says:

*"The resurrection is mentioned in over 300 verses in the New Testament. It's the center of almost every major area of theology...and practice."*¹

¹ Gary Habermas. YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jc-YBIG8EMg>

If the resurrection of Jesus is a sham, then the entire New Testament collapses under the intense weight of this false claim.

But what if ancient documents we call the NT are true & Jesus DID rise from the dead?

This changes EVERYTHING. Because...

Forgiveness & Fullness are found in Jesus alone

- 🕒 Those who turn from sin & trust Jesus can KNOW they are **forgiven** - RIGHT NOW!
- 🕒 Following Jesus brings **fullness** to life - RIGHT NOW - purpose, hope, & relationships!
- 🕒 Trusting Jesus offers forgiveness & fullness in **the life to come!** This is why the apostles of Jesus would sacrifice themselves in THIS LIFE - for the LIFE TO COME. Their RISEN KING would resurrect them as well!

The Gospel Message

Forgiveness & Fullness are found in Jesus alone

Are you living in Forgiveness & Fullness?

ANSWER? YES. What's different about your life because Jesus is alive? How does that impact how you spend your time & money, & how you treat people in your family & community? How does Jesus being alive impact your language, thoughts, actions, & attitudes?

ANSWER? NO. What's it going to take for you to realize your life is meant for something more? Your trust in people, possessions, & position is EMPTY. Consider the claims of Jesus.

* Ask a follower of Jesus some questions. They would LOVE to help you!