

THE RESURRECTION MEANS . . . “SURPRISE!!”

Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide

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Without the Resurrection . . .

1. The Gospel is _____.

- † 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (NASB).
- † Romans 10:9, “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved” (NASB).

2. Forgiveness of sins would be _____.

- † 1 Corinthians 15:17, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins” (NASB).
 - The empty grave is God’s _____.

3. Our present life would be _____.

- † 1 Corinthians 15:18-19, “Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied” (NASB).
 - In other words, you cannot really enjoy _____ until you are ready to experience _____.
- † John 19:42, “Therefore on account of the Jewish day of preparation, because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there” (NASB).

4. Godly living would be _____.

- † John 14:12, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father” (NASB).
- † John 14:16, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.”
- † John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (NASB).
- † Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (NASB).

5. Our future lives would be total _____.

- † John 14:1-2, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you” (NASB).

Truths We Can Apply From These 5 Points

- (a) If Jesus lied to His disciples here about the future, then we can’t believe Him for _____.
- (b) If the Resurrection did not occur, that means Jesus is still _____.
- (c) If Jesus did not return to God the Father, then He can’t _____ again in the future.
- (d) Since Jesus has returned to heaven to _____ a place for us, He will come again for us. Meaning Jesus is our _____ and our _____.

- † 1 Corinthians 15:14-17, “And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. ¹⁵And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can’t be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. ¹⁶And if there is no

resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins” (NLT)

- There are some good books out there that can help you with the Resurrection: Evidence That Demands A Verdict (Josh & Sean McDowell), The Case For Easter (Lee Strobel), The Case For The Resurrection of Jesus (Gary Habermas); Did The Resurrection Happen? (Gary Habermas); and The Resurrection of The Son of God (N.T. Wright).

False Theories Against The Resurrection

- (a) The women that Easter morning went to the _____ tomb and later so did Peter & John.
 - (b) The followers of Jesus were so overcome with grief they saw a _____ of Jesus based on Jewish mysticism.
 - (c) Others say the disciples were so overcome with grief that they were _____.
- + John 20:1, “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb” (NASB).

Three Details From This One Verse

1. _____ is the Greek New Testament word [πρωί, *proi*]. This refers to the first watch of the day, which is between _____ AM to _____ AM.
2. _____ — the first day of the week.
3. Stone was _____. “Removed” is the Greek New Testament word [αἶρω; *airō*]. A lot of us have the picture that the stone was rolled away slowly to the side. That is not what John wrote. This word means to “remove, cast aside, hurled, flung or thrown away.”

Three Observations That Should Encourage Our Faith

1. **Mary saw that the stone was _____** (see also Mark 16:3; Matt. 28:2).
 - The top Greek lexicons say this word best translates as “to pick up, carry and pushed away.”
 - In Luke 24:2, Luke uses a compound word that means that the stone was rolled so far up a slope that it was separated “at a great _____ from” the tomb.”
2. **Peter saw that the grave-clothes were _____ there** (John 20:2-8).
 - We have 3 “saws” expressed between John 20:2-18. Here are first two: (i) In verse 5, “saw” is the Greek New Testament word [βλέπω; *blepō*] and it means “to casually _____.” (ii) In verse 6, the word translated as “saw or noticed” is the Greek New Testament word [θεωρέω; *theōreō*]. It is where we get our English word _____ and _____. Verses 6-7 imply that what was left looked more like a _____ after a butterfly had flown away.
3. _____ **saw the Lord and was the the first to _____** (John 20:15-18)
 - This third reference to “seeing” is the Greek word [ὁράω; *horaō*]. It means to see with full _____.

Next Steps Devotional Guide

1. As you look at Christ and His Resurrection, is it with just a casual glance? Do you see the empty tomb with skepticism? Do you attempt to theorize about it how could so many people have been convinced it was true?
2. What or who do you identify most with in John’s version of the Resurrection?
3. What was your biggest take away for this?
4. Since 50% of people in America say they believe that when they die, they will have to give an account of how they lived their lives, how could your sharing the Gospel and the Resurrection of Jesus with them take that fear off of them?
5. If you say the Resurrection is important to you, then so should be making disciples. The last command Jesus gave was that in Matthew 28:19-20 — “make disciples”. What is the proof from your own personal discipleship making that the Resurrection is indeed important to you?