

The resurrection of Jesus isn't just a matter of blind faith—

It stands on real historical grounding.

When we look at the minimal facts—His crucifixion, the eyewitness claims, the transformation of skeptics, and the empty tomb—we're faced with a compelling reality: the resurrection isn't just possible, it's the most reasonable explanation. And if that's true, then the question shifts from "*Did it happen?*" to "*Why did it happen?*"—and what it means for us.

One of the ways we can examine the resurrection is through what's called the "**Minimal Facts**" **argument**—the idea that we can affirm the resurrection based on a few widely accepted historical facts.

First, Jesus was crucified—recorded even by the Roman historian Tacitus.

Second, His disciples truly believed they saw Him alive after His death.

Third, skeptics were suddenly converted—like James, the brother of Jesus, and Paul.

And fourth, the tomb was empty.

Now, that last point—the empty tomb—is often the most debated... but also the hardest to dismiss.

Some argue that crucifixion victims were left on crosses or placed in mass graves, which could explain a missing body. But the Gospel accounts align with known Jewish burial practices, making it likely that Jesus was, in fact, buried—just as described.

And even if you question the tomb, you still have to explain the eyewitness claims, the rapid growth of the movement, and why people were willing to suffer and die for their belief that Jesus had risen.

So when you consider what we *do* know...
the resurrection isn't just possible—

It's the most reasonable explanation.

Which raises a better question:

If it's not a lie... who benefits?

Who wins if the resurrection is a ploy?

Not the Romans—they lose control and face a rising movement that challenges their authority.

Not the Jewish leaders—it validates the very message they were trying to stop.

And not the disciples—they gain no wealth, no power—only persecution and death.

And people might die for something they believe is true...

but no one dies for something they *know* is a lie.

So if no one wins when it's false...

The best explanation for it becomes that it's because it's true.

Which means we have to move away from the question of *if* it happened...
to the question of **why** it happened.

Because the resurrection doesn't stand alone—it's tied to Jesus' life and His death.

If He didn't live, He couldn't die.

If He didn't die, there is no resurrection.

So why did Jesus live?

Scripture tells us He came to bring light into the world:

**“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.”
(John 1:9)**

He came to bring life by taking away sin—restoring our connection with God and establishing His kingdom: life in His presence.

So why did He die?

Not because His life was taken—but because He gave it.

“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord...” (John 10:18)

Jesus willingly laid down His life.

And why?

Because:

“The wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23)

To deal with sin, He embraced death—so that we wouldn't have to.

But the story doesn't end there.

Jesus didn't stay dead.

And that's what makes the gospel *the gospel*.

The resurrection proves everything He claimed:

It validates who He is,
confirms what He said,
and secures victory over sin and death.

As Paul writes:

“If Christ has not been raised... your faith is futile...” (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17)

But then he says:

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead...” (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Through one man came death—
through another came life.

And because He lives...
so will we.

So to put it simply:

Why did Jesus live? → To bring life.
Why did He die? → To deal with sin.
Why did He rise? → To defeat death.

But even that leads us to one final question:

Why would God do all of this?

And the answer is simple... but profound:

Because of His love for us.

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Everything—His life, His death, His resurrection—
is the ultimate expression of God’s love.

To close...

If the resurrection is true, then it’s not just something to believe—it’s something to respond to. It means Jesus is who He said He is. It means sin has been dealt with, death has been defeated, and new life is available to you right now.

And that leaves you with a personal invitation:

Will you trust Him?

This week, take one intentional step—set aside time each day to reflect on what Jesus has done for you. Read through one of the resurrection accounts (like John 20 or Luke 24), and simply ask: *“If this is true, what needs to change in me?”*

Because the resurrection isn’t just about what happened then—

It's about the new life that's available to you today.