



Connection to Passage

Jesus' resurrection is the pivotal event in history. Matthew gives us historical proof from eyewitnesses and introduces us to the significance of a living Savior.

Introduction/Opening

Jesus' resurrection changed everything. It changed everything for His disciples. It changed everything for the Jewish leaders who opposed Him. It changed everything for you and me.

The entire message of the Bible revolves around a living Savior. God's Word gives a clear record of how Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world, how He was buried, and, through the greatest miracle of all time, how He rose from the dead. We would have no hope if Christ was still dead. In fact, without the resurrection of Jesus, His birth and death have very little meaning. There have been many great events recorded in human history. But when Jesus Christ rose from the dead, it was the greatest historical event ever recorded.

The evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is massive. For example, the Bible records that Jesus appeared to over 500 people following His resurrection. But what does the resurrection mean for us today?

Outline

- I. The Resurrection Means I Can Live Eternally
 - a. Statistics say that approximately 50 million people die on this planet every year. The Bible makes it clear that death is a reality. The Bible says it this way in Hebrews 9:27: "It is appointed for people to die." There is no escaping the fact that every person born into this world will die.
 - b. But deep down in our hearts, most people want to live forever.
 - c. The great result of the resurrection is that we can live forever (John 11:25-26).
- II. The Resurrection Means I Have a Living Savior Who Can Help Me with Any Problem
 - a. If Jesus can rise from the dead, He can do anything.
 - b. The resurrection is a story of hope, not just for the afterlife, but also for this life.
 - c. Every person born into this world will have his or her share of problems and difficulties. Whether or not we realize it, we all need God's help.
 - d. Bible stories like the one about Daniel in the lion's den show us exactly how God can help in times of need. The psalmist said in Psalm 121:2, "My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." The help you need today is found in Christ.

III. The Resurrection Means My Sins Can Be Forgiven and I Can Have a Relationship with God

- a. There is a tremendous search for spiritual meaning in the lives of many people today.
- b. The fulfillment of one's spiritual appetite can only be found in relationship with God through His Son, Jesus.
- c. Whether a person knows it or not, his or her greatest need is forgiveness of sin and a relationship with God.
- d. Jesus said to the woman in Luke 7:48, "Your sins are forgiven." He is always willing to do the same for anyone who comes to Him in repentance of sin. John said it this way in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

IV. I Can Have a Fresh Start in Life

- a. The resurrection took place at the beginning of the day on the first day of the week. It was a fresh start to a new day and a new week.
- b. The resurrection was also a fresh start for human history.
- c. When a person connects with God through His Son, they will experience a fresh beginning in their own life. It is this kind of new beginning that Jesus referred to as a new birth or being born again in John 3.
- d. Many people want a new beginning, and the good news is that they can have a new beginning in Christ.

Conclusion

The world was changed the day that Jesus rose from the dead for all of us. The lives of people are changed the moment they place their faith and trust in the resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ. What does the resurrection mean to you? It is a question worth pondering. Paul gave a tremendous answer to this question in 1 Corinthians 15. At the heart of his answer, he says, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:17). What does the resurrection mean to you today?

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