

THE RESURRECTION

Intro: ***In your opinion***, what would be the perfect emblem for the Christian faith? An emblem that ‘symbolizes’ the faith in a way that is unique to the faith and explains the faith as completely as it can be explained with a single image. In my mind, the perfect symbol would not be **the cross** or **the empty grave** because there have been lots of crosses throughout history, and sceptics can give any number of reasons the tomb might have been empty. My perfect emblem for Christianity might be a Super-hero type depiction of the Risen Lord. A visual representation of the visibly living Jesus Christ. The _____ would be the perfect symbol because without the resurrection, the Bible tells us that our faith is in vain.

I. The Resurrection was not a _____.

A. In fact, it was first revealed in the Old Testament with Jonah and the fish serving as a ‘type’ or living illustration of what was to come.

Matthew 12: ⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”

³⁹But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;

⁴⁰for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

1) Far from being an afterthought or a ‘period’ to the Crucifixion story, the Resurrection is the _____ of the Gospel.

(a) It is the one crucifixion event that makes all the other events make sense.

(1) Without the Resurrection, the Lord’s death and burial would be _____.

1 Corinthians 15: ¹²Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;

¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

¹⁵Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

¹⁷and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins

¹⁸Then 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.

B. Belief in a literal, bodily Resurrection is required in the salvation process.

Romans 10: ⁸*But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,*

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;*

¹⁰*for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

1) Verse 9 is not describing the _____ option .

- QUESTION: How would you explain the truths of verse 10?

○ _____

II. There are two mistakes often made about the resurrection

A. It is important that we understand what they are but even more important that we understand why they are mistakes.

1) **The first** is the mistaken understanding that Jesus _____.

(a) He did not _____ from the dead, He _____ from the dead by His heavenly Father.

Acts 13: ²⁶*“Brethren, sons of Abraham’s family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.*

²⁷*“For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him.*

²⁸*“And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed.*

²⁹*“When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb.*

³⁰**“But God raised Him from the dead;**

³¹*and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.*

Galatians 1: ¹*Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),*

Ephesians 1^{19b}: *These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might*

²⁰*which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

²¹*far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.*

²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Colossians 2: *¹²having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

1 Peter 1: *²⁰For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you*

²¹who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

(1) It is important to understand the He did not **rise** from the dead because to do so He would indicate He was not _____ therefore _____.

(1a) On that first Easter morning, Jesus was raised from the dead.

2) The second mistake is to de-emphasize the reality of a physical, worldly, bodily resurrection.

(a) It is important that we understand Jesus was raised from the dead in His _____ and that His disciples saw and understood this to be His _____.

(1) Otherwise He is not ‘raised’ but ‘_____’ or ‘_____’ or whatever word you want to use.

(1a) That Jesus felt it was important for His disciples to understand a human bodily resurrection had occurred can be inferred by His invitation to ‘touch the crucifixion wounds’ and the fact that He ate with the disciples implying hunger.

Shirley Guthrie wrote,

“For Jesus, Himself, the resurrection did not mean escape from His own humanity and the human existence of other men, but the renewal of His own and other’s humanity.”

• QUESTION: How does Jesus exist now?

○ _____

B. Some possible answers:

1) A _____ of human body (i.e. Walk through closed doors)

1) This is possible but we need to remember that _____ human bodies have done miraculous things like that before and after

(a) Peter walked on water; Philip was ‘transported’ 40 miles immediately, etc

B. _____ that looks the same but is somehow different

1) This is possible because He was was recognizable (most of the time) and functioned well despite the crucifixion wounds, etc

(a) But we need to remember that Jesus is pictured elsewhere in other glorious forms

III. The fact of the Resurrection:

A. There is a dilemma we need to acknowledge: _____ !

1) Hundreds, maybe thousands witnessed the crucifixion but _____ saw the resurrection

(a) As we alluded to earlier, the empty tomb is not proof because there are any number of reasons the tomb might be empty (swooned, disciples removed the body, etc.)

(1) The eye-witness accounts is not good ‘courtroom proof’ because the only ones who claimed to see the risen Lord _____.

- QUESTION:

B. There is another dilemma we need to acknowledge: _____.

1) The bible doesn’t say and neither should we because we simply don’t know.

(a) A friend once told me about the significance of the face cloth being in a place by itself

(1) he said an expert in Jewish traditions said that doing so at that time and in that culture meant the same as “save my seat, I’m coming back”.

(1a) However I do not teach or preach that because I haven’t been able to verify that custom.

- QUESTION: How would you answer the question, “How do you know that He was raised from the dead?”

○ _____

2) Perhaps the best answer might be, “more than most things, the fact of the resurrection is a matter of faith.”

(a) This is a good time to remind ourselves that it is not our task to ‘prove’ anything.

(1) We are to simply relay the facts of the gospel. The H.S. then convicts and convinces.

II. The Meaning of the resurrection: Acts 2:22-36 (read)

Acts 2: ²²“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—

²³this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

²⁴“But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

²⁵“For David says of Him,

‘I saw the Lord always in my presence;

For He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken.

²⁶ *‘Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted;*

Moreover my flesh also will live in hope;

²⁷ *Because You will not abandon my soul to Hades,*

Nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

²⁸ *'You have made known to me the ways of life;
You will make me full of gladness with your presence.'*

²⁹ *"Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.*

³⁰ *"And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.*

³² *"This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.*

³³ *"Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.*

³⁴ *"For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:*

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at My right hand,

³⁵ *Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.'"*

³⁶ *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."*

A. Some instant observations:

1) The resurrection is a _____ political statement:

(a) Jesus is not called president, Pope or Prime Minister

(1) He is called Lord (King) with all the imagery and authority that title brings with it

2) The resurrection is a _____ statement: (v. 36)

(a) Jesus is not Lord by our permission or vote count.

(1) He is Lord because God made Him Lord and gave ALL heavenly, spiritually, and earthly power to Him... and He did that apart from any consultation with the will of mankind

'According to the new testament, the resurrection of Jesus meant that He who gave Himself as the Suffering Servant of God is now revealed to be the triumphant Lord. He who came preaching the Kingdom of God is now seen to be King of the Kingdom. Lord, King, Kingdom, victory, rule, sovereignty... these are the concepts which characterize biblical faith in the risen Jesus. And these are the concepts we must try to understand. - Shirley C. Guthrie Jr

A. God has made Him both Lord AND Christ...

1) QUESTION: What does Peter mean when he said, "God has made Him both Lord and Christ?"

Answer: _____

3) QUESTION: How would you answer the question, "If your Lord **IS** alive and **IS** King of the universe, why is there so much evil in the world today?"

Answer: _____

- (a) The Evil has not yet been defeated explanation – (future hope) (*see 1 pet. 3:22*)
- (b) The ideal to be realized by Christian influence explanation – (The kingdom as an ideal yet to be realized) –
 - (1) the bible speaks of the Kingdom as here, not in the process of becoming, and of Jesus as Lord, not Lord to come (*see Phil. 2:9-11*)
- (c) The D-Day Theory explanation – In every War there is a decisive battle that determines the outcome of the war
 - (1) There may be ‘mopping up’ skirmishes but the enemy is effectively defeated