

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ John 20

The Resurrection is:

- The story that defines our faith.
- The event that sets Jesus apart from other teachers, prophets or religious leaders.
- The fact that transformed Christ's disciples.

The Empty Tomb John 20:1-10

- The story is written very naturally.
- Christ's followers were not expecting his resurrection.
- 20:6-7 A friend would not have moved his body while it was naked.
- An enemy would not have carefully folded the cloths.
- 20:9 Jesus had to rise from the dead before they truly understood that he was planning to do that all along.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene John 20:11-18

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- She is so distracted she is unimpressed by angels.
- 20:16 She doesn't understand what has happened until Jesus calls her by name.
- The Gospels are unanimous that Jesus appeared to the women first – odd for that culture unless it were true.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples John 20:19-23

- 20:19 They had the doors locked for fear of the Jews.
- Peace be with you "*Shalom Aleychem*" is a normal greeting in Hebrew – and is similar in Aramaic or modern Arabic.
- 20:22-23 Compare with Luke 24:45-48.

Jesus and Thomas John 20:24-29

- John doesn't explain why Thomas wasn't with them, but by the sound of it he may have been off sulking.
- 20:26 Jesus appears through locked doors – again.
- 20:27 He evidently heard what Thomas said.
- 20:29 We are among "those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John's Reason for Writing John 20:30-31

- We don't have the record of all that Jesus said and did.
- We do have enough to allow us to believe.

Isn't this all just made up? Fiction? Myth? Wishful thinking?

- Unlike pagan myths (fertility, man becomes god).
- Unlike Jewish understanding of resurrection which would come at the end of history.
- Unlike fiction of that day, more like biography.
- Attestation in secular sources comparable to Roman emperors within 150 years of each.
- Lies don't stand up under pressure (Chuck Colson)

Chuck Colson in his own words:

- *"With the most powerful office in the world at stake, a small band of hand-picked loyalists, no more than ten of us, could not hold a conspiracy together more than two weeks. ..."*
"... the natural human instinct for self-preservation was so overwhelming that the conspirators, one-by-one deserted their leader, walked away from their cause, turned their backs on the power, prestige, and privileges. ..."
"Unlike men in the White House, the disciples were powerless people, abandoned by their leader, homeless in a conquered land. Yet they clung tenaciously to their enormously offensive story that their leader had risen from his ignoble death and was alive -- and was the Lord!"

The resurrection reminds us that:

- God is faithful. (2 Samuel 7:12-14)
- Death is not the end. (1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 17-19)
- Christ is more powerful than death. (Acts 2:22-24)
- Christ is the giver of life. (11:25-26)