

Jesus

rises, **sen**ds, & **asc**ends



Jesus Rises

(Mark 16:1-14, John 20:1-18)



Jesus Rises

Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they (Mary, Mary & Salome) went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

Jesus Rises

But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side.

Jesus Rises

*The women were shocked, but the angel said, “Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn’t here! **He is risen from the dead!** Look, this is where they laid his body. Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.”*

(Mark 16:2-7)

what?

IS THE
Credibility
OF The
Resurrection

First; Jesus' own claim that he would rise from the dead.

Jesus said that he would rise from the dead. He said, for example, "*Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up*" (John 2:19; Mark 14:58). He said, "*No sign will be given to this generation, except the sign of Jonah*" (Matthew 12:39).

“Jesus’ integrity and his faithfulness would come into serious question if he had gone around saying he was going to rise from the dead but really didn't. It's hard to honor Jesus as an honest and good man, or a psychologically healthy man, if we reject him as the risen Son of God.”

John Piper

Second; The empty tomb and the inability to produce a body.

The tomb where he was buried was empty on the third day and the enemies of Jesus never could produce the body, even though that would have ended the new movement of Christianity overnight if they could have.

Some have tried to say that the disciples stole the body. But that would mean that the disciples began to risk their lives and give themselves up to martyrdom for the sake of a hoax they knew to be false and worthless...

Third; The dramatic change in the disciples.

Something must account for the dramatic change in the disciples after Good Friday. The fact is they were utterly dejected and terrified after the death of Jesus. They were ready to go back to fishing, but were scared of the authorities that had put their teacher to death. They were hiding in a secluded room and were unwilling to believe the first reports of Jesus' appearance.

But in a few weeks these same men were overflowing with joy and courage. They were ready to die for Christ.

Why?

Fourth; Numerous eyewitnesses.

Twenty years later Paul wrote a letter to the church at Corinth, and said to some very skeptical Greeks;

"Christ was raised on the third day . . . He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:4–6).

In other words, Paul was claiming that skeptics who wanted to could find almost 500 eyewitnesses that were still alive 20 years later.

Fifth; The integrity and reliability of the witnesses

“When I read the writers of the New Testament, my conscience is won over. Their insights into human nature are profound. Their personal commitment is sober and carefully stated. Their teachings are coherent and do not look like the invention of unstable men. The moral and spiritual standard is high. And the life of these men, as it comes through their writings, is totally devoted to the truth and to the honor of God.”

John Piper

Sixth; The life-changing power of Christ today.

Thousands, and millions of people can bear witness today to the personal life-changing power of the living Christ.

When you put your faith in him, he came by his Spirit into your life and began to show his power and love in your experience.

At belief, there began a new love for God, a new love for people, a new hope and joy, a new patience in trouble, a new freedom from old habits, and courage to stand for justice and righteousness. The changes that he has made in us are an undeniable evidence that he is alive and real.

what?

IS THE

Significance

OF The

Resurrection

First, the resurrection is one of the major evidences that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

“...he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.”

(Romans 1:4)

Second, Jesus' resurrection gives us
an assurance that we can have
forgiveness from our sins.

*“And if Christ has not been raised, then your
faith is useless and you are still guilty of your
sins.” (1 Corinthians 15:17)*

Third, the resurrection tells the world that the kingdom of God is ruled by a living sovereign Lord.

The founder of Islam is dead and his bones lie dissolving in the earth. But the founder of Christianity—sixty years after his death—appeared to John on the island of Patmos and said:

“I am the first and the last, and the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore”

(Revelation 1:17-18)

Fourth, Jesus' resurrection proves to us that we can be confident that we will be raised from the dead.

*“...if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised **Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies...**” (Romans 8:11)*

"If Christ Has Not Been Raised..."

And if Christ has not been raised, **(1)** your faith is futile; **(2)** you are still in your sins.

Then **(3)** those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, **(4)** we are of all people most to be pitied.

(1 Corinthians 15:17-20)

"If Christ Has Not Been Raised..."

More than that, (5) we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead.

(1 Corinthians 15:15)

**“But Christ has indeed been raised
from the dead...”**

(1) Your faith is not futile.

(2) You are not still in your sins.

**(3) Those who have fallen asleep in Christ are
not lost.**

(4) We are of all people not most to be pitied.

**(5) The apostles are not found to be false
witnesses about God.**

Positively:

- (1) Our Faith is well-founded.**
- (2) We are forgiven all of our sins.**
- (3) Those who have believed, and since died are with Christ.**
- (4) We are the people to be most envied.**
- (5) The apostles are credible witnesses about God.**

(1) Our Faith is well-founded.

Because of the resurrection our faith is well-founded. Or, because of the resurrection of Jesus there is someone we can trust absolutely. Jesus is someone who is absolutely trustworthy. Someone who, if you put your faith in him, it won't be in vain.

(2) We are forgiven all of our sins.

The foundation for every other blessing from God is that God won't hold our sins against us. Everything hangs on forgiveness. Our sin is what sets him against us.

Romans 4:25: "He was handed over to death on account of our sins, and he was raised on account of our justification."

(3) Those who have believed, and since died are with Christ.

Those who have died in faith—have not perished. Or positively, they are alive. They will live forever. They live the way Christ lives... to the glory of God and for their eternal joy.

(4) We are the people to be most envied.

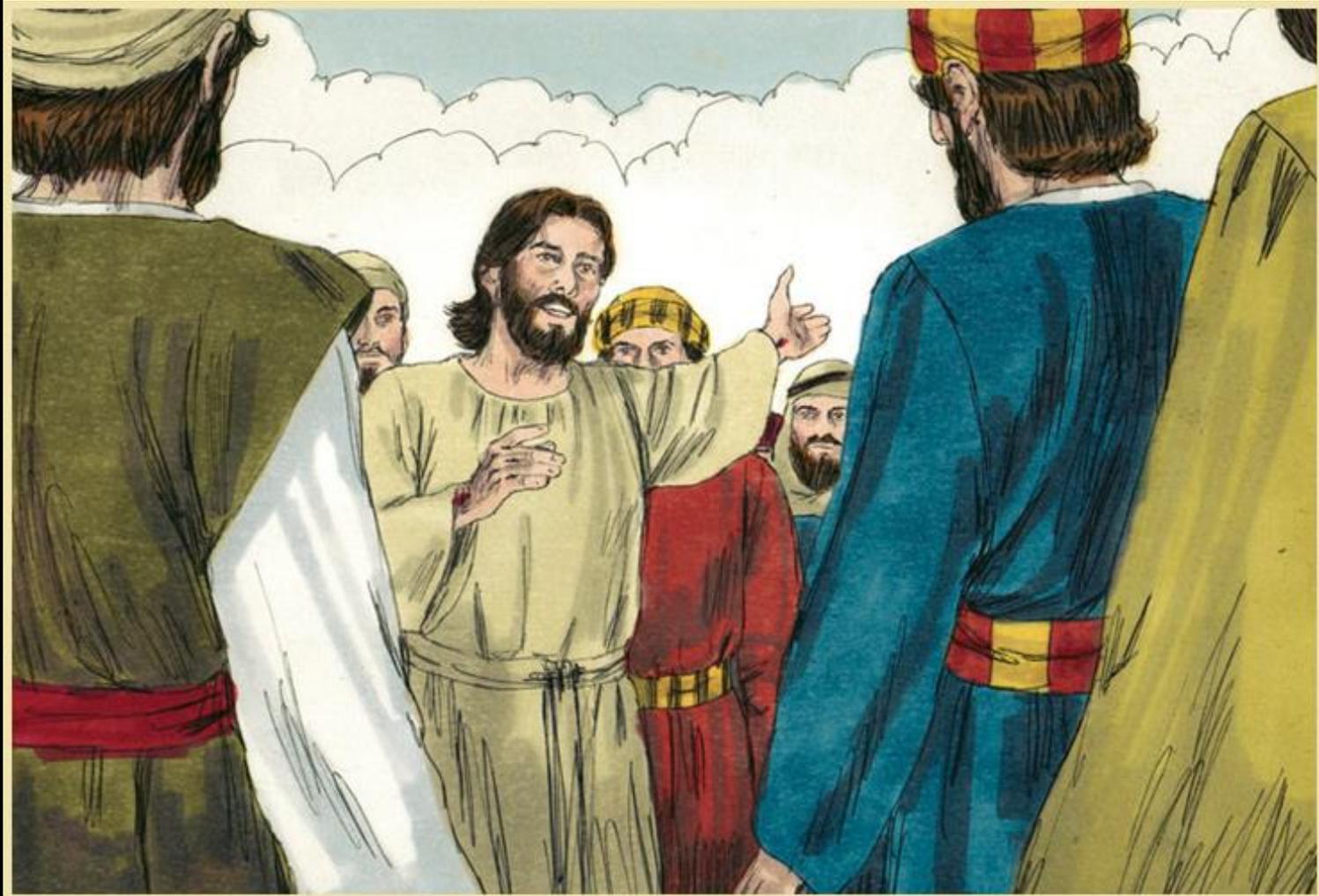
Since he has been raised and is alive and reigns as king forever, all our obedience, all our love, all our self-denial is not just not-to-be-pitied, but is positively enviable. In the end those who are not in Christ will envy us!

(5) The apostles are credible witnesses about God.

The apostles are not false witnesses about God. They are true, real and to be followed. What they wrote is credible, from the mouth of God and should be followed.

Jesus Instructs

(Luke 24:44-49, Acts 1:4-8)



“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.” (Luke 24:49)

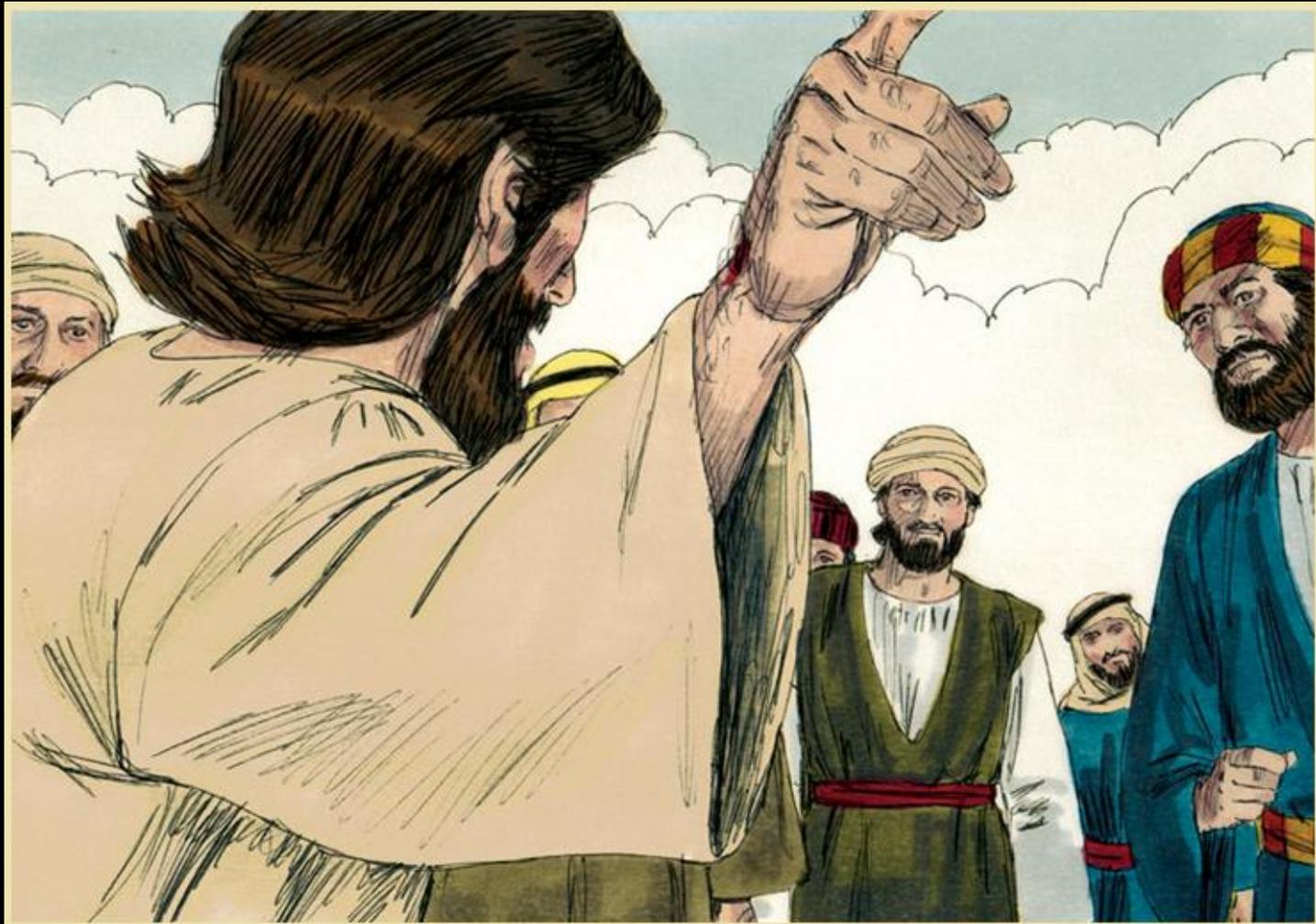
He commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5)

The Early Church was to...

1. Wait in Jerusalem and not leave the city.
2. Wait, and not begin their task, until the Holy Spirit was received.
3. To begin spreading the Gospel near and far, all the way to the ends of the earth, to every tribe, tongue and nation...by the message of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, the authority of Christ.

Jesus Sends

(Matt 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16 , Acts 1:8)



And then he told them,

**“Go into all the world and preach the
Good News to everyone.**

Anyone who believes and is baptized
will be saved. But anyone who
refuses to believe will be condemned.

(Mark 16:15-16)

Therefore,

go and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these
new disciples to obey all the commands I
have given you. And be sure of this: I am
with you always, even to the end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:19-20)

But you will receive power when
the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

**And you will be my witnesses,
telling people about me
everywhere—**

in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in
Samaria, and to the ends of the
earth.” **(Acts 1:8)**

Jesus tells the disciples, and all the believers present...

1. To GO

2. To make Disciples by teaching them everything Christ has commanded and baptize them.

3. To begin in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria

4. To continue on to the ends of the earth, into every tribe, tongue and nation.

Jesus said earlier that:

“...this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

(Matt 24:14)

**This is the reason that we are still here
and why Christ has not returned.**



Jesus Ascends

(Mark 16:19-20, Acts 1:9-11)



After saying this, **he was taken up into a cloud** while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to **see him rising into heaven**, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? **Jesus has been taken from you into heaven**, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

(Acts 1:9-11)

When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, **he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.** And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.

(Mark 16:19-20)

*“But **do not forget this one thing**, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. **The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise**, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.*

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. (2 Peter 3:8-12)



the
Holy Spirit

the CHURCH era

