

The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus – Part Three

The + 1 of the “4+1 Facts”

4/16/2017 Resurrection Sunday AM

Scripture: John 19:12-22, Matthew 28:1-15, John 14:1-7

Introduction

- For the past two weeks, we have looked at building a case for the resurrection of Jesus.
- I presented to you 4 Facts about Jesus' resurrection: 1) Jesus died by crucifixion. 2) Jesus' disciples believed that he rose and appeared to them. 3.) The conversion of the church persecutor Paul and 4.) The conversion of the skeptic James.
- Not only did the disciples, Paul, and James believe in Jesus' resurrection, they all were willing to suffer and most died, because of their beliefs.
- This morning we are going to deal with the “+ 1” and that is the Empty Tomb.
- This rounds out the other facts, and is something that definitely must be dealt with.

The “+ 1” Fact: The Empty Tomb

The Promise

John 2:12-22

¹²After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days. ¹³When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ²⁰The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

- The Jews demanded that Jesus prove to them that he had authority in v.18, so what did he promise them?
- That if they destroyed his body (“this temple”) he would raise it again in three days in v.19.
- The Jews did not believe him because they thought he was talking about the Temple they worshipped in which had taken 46 years to build.
- V.22 is profoundly interesting in that John notes that the disciples themselves began to believe the Scripture and Jesus' teachings after he had risen from the grave and they remember his promise in v.19.
- So we know that rising from the dead was something that Jesus promised, not only to his disciples, but to others as well.

The Promise Fulfilled

Matthew 28:1-15

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.** ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'" ¹⁴If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

- All four gospels record the fact that on Sunday morning the tomb was found empty.
- The question should be to those that do not believe what the Bible says, where is his body?
- There are several views that seek to answer this question:
 1. The disciples stole the body.
 2. The Jewish leaders stole the body.
 3. The Swoon Theory: He wasn't dead, and escaped.
 4. **He rose bodily from the dead and walked out of the tomb!!**
- If the disciples had it, why did almost all of them suffer and die for a lie? How did they get past the guards?
- If the Jewish leaders stole the body, they would have paraded him in the streets to prove a point.
- The Swoon Theory is the craziest theory of them all, no one could have survived what he went through.
- 75% of all scholars concede that the tomb is empty, they don't all agree as to why, but we know it is empty.
- Even writers outside of the Bible attest to the empty tomb and none mention a body being found at all.
- So what do you do with this? Where is his body?
- Folks it is real simple, HE ROSE BODILY FROM THE DEAD AND WALKED OUT OF THE TOMB!
- Jesus' sacrifice on the cross paid the sin debt that you and I owed.
- It is only because of his perfect sinless sacrifice that you and I can stand before the father righteous and holy.
- Jesus' death was not the end though, the best was yet to come.
- On resurrection Sunday over 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ proved to everyone that he is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and he has power and authority over the entire universe.
- He conquered death, hell, and the grave in a display of might that this world had never seen before.
- In John 19:19 Jesus said that he would raise himself in three days, that is might right there folks!
- Jesus' resurrection proves who he is, and that means everything else he said about himself if true as well.

John 14:1-7

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

- He promised that he would come back and get us and take us to Heaven with him.
- He promised that he was the only way to the Father who is in Heaven.
- He fulfilled his other promises, are you ready for him to fill these promises?
- Have you surrendered your life to Jesus?
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