



# Easter at Calvary—Love Lives

## Factual Evidence of Jesus' Resurrection

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**TEXT:** "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?" - Jesus, John 11:25-26 NIV

**BIG IDEA:** Do you believe Jesus was resurrected?

## FACTUAL EVIDENCE OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

### I. DETAILS OF THE EMPTY TOMB

- TWO Popular Arguments Denying the Resurrection:
  - 1) The Swoon Theory: Jesus never really died. He lost consciousness and regained it in the cool tomb.
  - 2) The theory that the disciples stole the dead body of Jesus
- That story, cooked up in the Jewish High Council, is still going around. Matthew 28:15b MSG
- The Historicity and Factual Evidence of Jesus' Resurrection:
  - 1) Roman soldiers crucified Jesus, and His death was reportedly confirmed.
  - 2) Roman soldiers sealed and guarded Jesus' tomb, ensuring no one could possibly steal Jesus' dead body.

### II. WOMEN AS WITNESSES

- When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say..." Matthew 28:12-13a NIV
- Jesus met them. Matthew 28:9 NIV
- Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. GO AND TELL..." - Jesus, Matthew 28:10a NIV
- HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, just as He said would happen. Come..." Matthew 28:6 NLT

### III. THE ACCOUNTS OF JESUS' APPEARANCES

- After His suffering, HE SHOWED HIMSELF to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God. Acts 1:3 NIV
- -HE APPEARED to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time... 1 Corinthians 15:6a NIV

### IV. TESTIMONIES OF TRANSFORMATION

- Only the miracle of Jesus' resurrection could have transformed cowering Christians into confident martyrs.
- While they were stoning him, **Stephen prayed**, "Jesus... do not hold this sin against them." Acts 7:59-60 NIV

"He had seen Stephen die, and heard him declare that in his dying he saw Jesus... heard him pray for the men who killed him... The one thing that brought full and overwhelming conviction to him was the fact that JESUS WAS ALIVE Who had been dead."

G. Campbell Morgan

*The Great Physician: The Method of Jesus w/ Individuals*

- **“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead... so in Christ all will be made alive.”** - Paul, 1 Corinthians 15:20 NIV

“Does a dead man prick the consciences of men?”

- Athanasius of Alexandria

## **V. THE PRESENCE OF JESUS EXPERIENCED**

- ... some [still] doubted. Matthew 28:17 NIV
- “Immanuel” – which means, “God with us” Matthew 1:23
- “... AND surely I am with you always.” - Jesus, Matthew 28:20b
- If you confess with your mouth, “JESUS is Lord,” and BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART that God raised Him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED. Romans 10:9 NIV
- “Do you believe this?” - Jesus, John 11:26b NIV

**Jesus**