



Part 10: The Outrageous Aftermath

INTRODUCTION – The Story Thus Far: Reviewing The Evidence

EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS...

- The Missing Body
- The Mysterious Sightings
- The Courageous Community: Bold, Lasting, Audacious Change
- The Switch from Sabbath to Sunday Celebration
- The Nature of the Gospel Reports
 - Lack of OT precedent or references
 - Unglamorous experiences of the risen Jesus
 - No shine
 - No initial recognition
 - No visiting kings or singing angelic hosts
 - Continuity & Discontinuity between different reports
 - The Women Witnesses

OPPOSING THEORIES...

- Jesus never died, but only fainted.
 - This pushes against all rational thought and historical knowledge.
- Body was never buried.
 - So, why develop this unlikely resurrection story? Why die for it?
 - Why not replace Jesus with James?
- Disciples stole the body.
 - How could the guards sleep through the moved stone?
 - How could they know it was the disciples if they were sleeping?
 - Why would not one disciple recant on pain of death?
 - How can the appearances be explained?
- Someone else stole the body.
 - What about the guards?
 - Why not confess to the theft when things went got out of hand?
 - Without the sightings, this would lead only to a theory of grave-robbery, not resurrection.
- Mass hallucinations.
 - Ghosts that eat food? (Luke 24:39-43)
 - Spirits that encourage physical contact? (John 20:27)
 - Multiple simultaneous visions?
 - Seeing only the *spirit* of the deceased proves they are dead, not alive again in a resurrected sense.
- A substitute was crucified [Muslim theory]
 - Requires blind faith with zero historical evidence.
 - Crafts history to suit theology.

Significant Sightings

Matthew 28:8-20; Luke 24:13-53; John 20:11-21:25

- *Mad Mary...*
TAKE OUT: Jesus will _____ up your past, and _____ your future.
- *Confused Cleopas...*
TAKE OUT: The Bible is like the X-Files - The truth is _____ there.
- *Doubting Thomas...*
TAKE OUT: Questioning disciples are still _____.
- *Pitiable Peter...*
TAKE OUT: Work with what you _____. Trust God with what you don't.

CONCLUSION – Seeing Jesus Today

The resurrected Jesus is not known by his appearance, but by his:

1. T _____ (Luke 24:32)
2. F _____ (Luke 24:30-31)
3. P _____ (John 21:7)

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Let's return to studying one of the earliest written accounts of the resurrection of Jesus and the theological implications Paul draws from it for our own lives. Read **1 Corinthians 15** through closely and, if possible, from more than one translation.
 - a. What verse has the most impact on you? Why?
 - b. This letter was written by Paul sometime in the early 50's CE. What clues can be found in **verses 1-3** that suggest that belief in Jesus' resurrection was part of the earliest faith of the Christian community and not a later development?
 - c. What about **v. 6**, written just a couple of decades after Jesus' death, makes Paul's claims particularly open to historical scrutiny?
 - d. What significance could there be in describing death as being "asleep", as Paul does in this passage (**vv. 6, 18, 20, 51**)?
 - e. Describe how Jesus' messianic mission of defeating evil and liberating creation is seen by Paul in this chapter as a two-stage process (i.e., part one now; part two later).
 - f. Some people want to focus on the metaphysics of *how* God does certain miracles rather than the reality of the miracles themselves. How does Paul respond to these people in **v. 35-36**? (Note the first 2 words of **v. 36**.) What lesson is there in this for us today?

SO WHAT?...

3. a) According to Paul in **1 Corinthians 15:31-34 & 58**, what effect should the resurrection of Jesus in the *past* and the promise of our own resurrection in the *future* have on how we live in the *present*? b) What issue raised in these verses do you need the most growth in? c) What are you going to do about it? Pray for each other concerning this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, June 1 / 8, 2003