

International Conversation Cafe

New Testament: Evidence of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Luke 24

Jesus was crucified and then buried in a cave which was then covered with a large rock. Roman soldiers guarded the tomb. He rose from the dead on the third day. There are many proofs of the resurrection. One of the strongest proofs comes from eye-witness accounts. The following Scripture is one of these accounts.

Luke 24

It was very early in the morning on the first day of the week. The women took the spices they had prepared. Then they went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from it. When they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They were wondering about this.

Resurrect 1. To bring back to life; raise from the dead.

Reincarnate 1. To cause to be reborn in another body; incarnate again.
American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

Suddenly two men in clothes as bright as lightning stood beside them. The women were terrified. They bowed down with their faces to the ground.

Then the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you he would rise. It was while he was still with you in Galilee. He said, 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people. He must be nailed to a cross. On the third day he will rise from the dead.'"

Then the women remembered Jesus' words.

They came back from the tomb. They told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them were the ones who told the apostles. But the apostles did not believe the women. Their words didn't make any sense to them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. He bent over and saw the strips of linen lying by themselves. Then he went away, wondering what had happened.

Name the main characters and retell the story.

Is there anything that surprises you about this story?



Tarchaini, Filippo. The Supper at Emmaus. 1625. Oil on canvas.
99.06 x 137.16 cm.
William Randolph Hearst Collection

On the Road to Emmaus

Luke 24 describes how Jesus appeared to two disciples who were walking toward a village near Jerusalem on Sunday. They were discussing what had happened to Jesus, expressing their disappointment. Jesus joined them though God prevented the men from recognizing Him. After a long conversation about why the Messiah had to suffer, their “eyes” were opened and they realized it was Jesus. Jesus left them and they hurried back to Jerusalem to find the other disciples.

Later on, that same day, Jesus appeared to his disciples.

The disciples were still talking about this when Jesus himself suddenly stood among them. He said, “May peace be with you!”

They were surprised and terrified. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

Jesus said to them, “Why are you troubled? Why do you have doubts in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is really I! Touch me and see. A ghost does not have a body or bones. But you can see that I do.”

After he said that, he showed them his hands and feet. But they still did not believe it. They were amazed and filled with joy.

So Jesus asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

They gave him a piece of cooked fish. He took it and ate it in front of them.

Jesus said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything written about me must happen. Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must come true.”

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written. The Christ will suffer. He will rise from the dead on the third day. His followers will preach in his name. They will tell others to turn away from their sins and be forgiven. People from every nation will hear it, beginning at Jerusalem. You have seen these things with your own eyes.

Luke 24.

Retell this last part of the story. How does Jesus help his disciples understand that he really has risen from the dead?

What questions does this story bring to your mind?

What convinces you that Jesus rose from the dead?

What is difficult to believe?

The following comes from Nicky Gumbel's book called, *Questions of Life*..

The Evidence of the Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus Christ happened about 2,000 years ago. But how do we know this really happened? Here are three evidences that help us.

1. Jesus' body was not found in the tomb. People try to explain how this could be apart from his resurrection.

a. Some suggest he really did not die. But the Roman soldiers were convinced he was dead. If they allowed a prisoner to escape, they would have suffered the death penalty themselves.

b. Others suggest that the disciples stole his body and spread a rumor that he raised from the dead. This is very unlikely considering that the tomb was guarded by soldiers and the disciples were disillusioned and depressed when Jesus died.

c. Some claim the authorities stole his body. This does not make sense because when the "rumors" began to circulate about his resurrection, they could have put an end to it by producing his body.

2. Jesus appeared to his disciples plus about 500 other people after the resurrection. It is not possible for that many people to be **hallucinating** at the same time. Besides, he ate, walked and talked with them for long periods of time.

3. The immediate effect of the resurrection had a tremendous effect on the world. It began with the disciples who were hesitant and fearful becoming bold and courageous, even able to suffer and eventually give their lives for Jesus Christ. Thousands believed, the church was born and millions more followed in faith, knowing Jesus in a personal relationship. Today the living Lord Jesus Christ still changes people.

The physical resurrection of Jesus Christ is what makes Christianity distinctive from other religions. It demonstrates God's value in not only our soul and spirit, but also our bodies.

Jesus is able to offer people eternal life because He rose from the dead himself, "Because I live, you also shall live." John 14:19

"Jesus was handed over to die for our sins. He was raised to life in order to make us right with God." Romans 5:25

*Which of these arguments seems most and least convincing?
If the resurrection is true, how would it change how you live?*