



IF JESUS ROSE IT CHANGES EVERYTHING

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life/the grace in your lives.

OPENING COMMENT

What difference does it make that the tomb was empty and that Jesus rose? The Apostle Paul tells us, *if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins* (1 Corinthians 15:17). So, it would appear that the resurrection is the very centre of the Christian faith. If Jesus rose it changes *everything*.

READ THE TEXT: John 20:1-18

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb.

¹²And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one



at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What objections to the resurrection of Jesus have you encountered in your interactions with others?
2. The majority of historians agree that Jesus of Nazareth really lived and really died by Roman crucifixion, and who (whether He was the resurrected Son of God or not) dramatically changed the course of history like no one else. Would you agree that it doesn't just take faith to believe in Jesus but it also takes faith not to?
3. If the resurrection is true, where would it be on the list of important events in history? Why?
4. How has your life changed through belief in the resurrection?
5. If the resurrection never happened, would your life be any different?
6. How would your daily life change if the resurrection was on the forefront of your mind each day?
7. How does the resurrection free us from the fear of death in our day-to-day lives?

CONCLUSION

Just like the characters in John's gospel, we too are invited to *believe* that our sins were completely dealt with in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; to *live* in light of its reality and glorious benefits; and to *share* the news (gospel) with those around us.

SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this study.
- Each share the name of an individual that you would like to see encounter the truth about Jesus. Pray for them by name.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

