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"The Easter Story"

The Resurrection of Jesus - The Reason We Celebrate



Overtime Podcast



Group Questions

1. Why should the resurrection of Jesus cause me joy?
 - a. Jesus's resurrection answers three of life's most challenging questions:
 - i. Where should I put my faith?
 - ii. Am I good with God?
 - iii. What will happen to me after I die?

2. Main Text

1 Corinthians 15:17-18 (NIV) "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost."

3. Where Should I Put My Faith?

1 Corinthians 15:17 (NIV) "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile [...]"

- a. Why would our faith be futile if Jesus was not resurrected?
 - i. If Jesus didn't resurrect, he is a liar and his claims are false.

Matthew 12:38-40 (NIV) "38 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you." 39 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- b. That's what makes the resurrection such a convincing sign!
 - i. No dead person can perform a miracle on himself.

Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV) "After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There 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. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then 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."

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

- ii. Matthew is an eyewitness to the resurrected Jesus... but did Matthew lie?
 1. Was it a legend? No, there was enough distance and time.
 2. Was it a lie? He was martyred his claims about Jesus.
- iii. The Embarrassing Principle: Most embarrassing facts aren't made up.
 1. Women had no right to give a testimony in the court.
 - a. Why make up that they were the first to see the tomb?
- c. Additional Resources:
 - i. Movie: The Case for Christ - Lee Strobel
 - ii. Book: The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus - Gary Habermas

4. Am I Good with God?

- a. **God is holy:** set apart, unique, in a class all by Himself

Romans 3:23 (NIV) "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [...]"

- i. Sin: "Khata" means to miss.

Judges 20:16b (NIV) "[...] each of whom could sling a stone at a hair and not miss."

- b. How high is God's moral standard?
 - i. Adam and Eve only sinned once before they were removed from Eden.

James 2:10 (NIV) "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."

- c. The punishment for my sin is my death, not community service.

Romans 6:23 (NIV) "For the wages of sin is death [...]"

- d. The dilemma: How can God give sin what it deserves (death) and make a way for sinners like us to be with Him forever because He loves us?

Colossians 2:14 (NLT) "He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."

- e. When Jesus resurrects, it is like a check clearing the bank.
 - i. You only know the check is worth anything when it clears the bank.

5. What Will Happen to Me After I Die?

1 Corinthians 15: 20 (NIV) "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

- a. Jesus's resurrection is our **model** - the firstfruits - for those who believe in Him.

Ephesians 2:8 (ESV) "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

- b. And what does this do for us? It erases the fear of death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV) "[...] [Jesus] too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might [...] free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."

Small Group Discussion Questions: Story the Passage: Matthew 28:1-10

Ice Breaker: What is one thing that God has been doing in your life recently?

1. Read Matthew 28:1-10 from the Bible and then retell it as a group without your Bible.
 - a. What can we learn from this passage about Jesus? About humans? About us?
2. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important to our Christian faith?
3. Do you ever struggle trying to be good enough for God?
 - a. Why does that striving never work?
 - b. How can the resurrection free us from that striving?
4. Read Hebrews 2:14-15.
 - a. How does the resurrection of Jesus help free us from the fear of death?

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