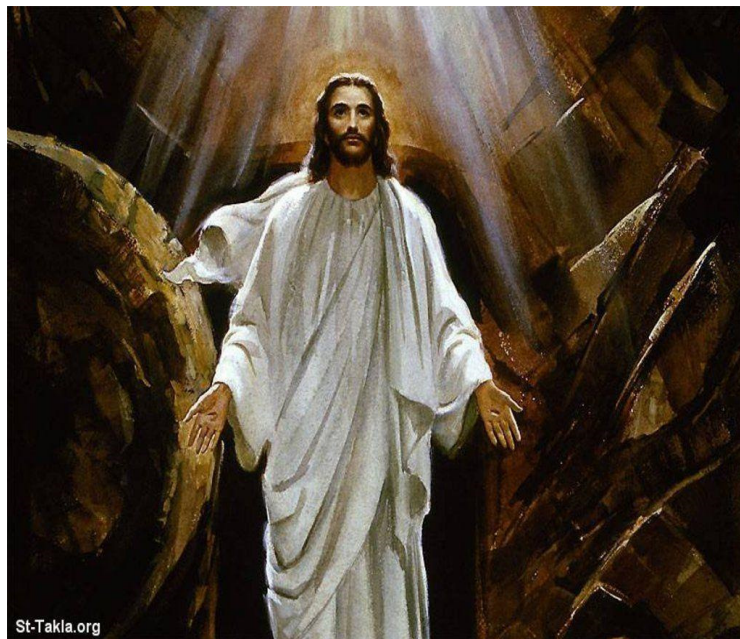


The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 138

Resurrection Day
Jesus was Raised...
But Many did not Believe it



2020

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Jesus Christ, God's Son, loves us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to go to the cross, take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again from the dead and He is alive today seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. Believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ and you will be saved and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."

(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



LESSON



Hello kids, a very blessed Resurrection Sunday to you all. Today is the greatest celebration...the resurrection of our dear Savior, Jesus.

In the early mists of morning, in a garden in Jerusalem, the voice of an angel rings out: **"He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said."**

These words were heard at the empty grave of our Lord Jesus Christ. They were spoken to the women who had arrived to anoint the body of the Lord with oil as was the custom for Jewish burials. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, the Apostle.



These words were the bolt of lightning that set the fire of hope that would spread like wildfire throughout the world...the risen Lord told the eleven disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all mankind.

Just 25 years later the apostle Paul reported that the gospel was constantly bearing fruit and increasing in all the world.

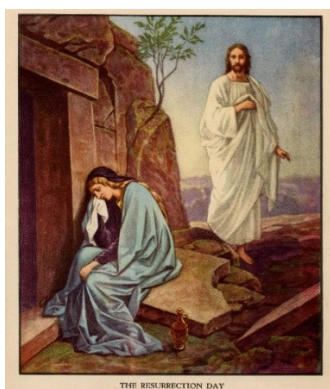
We begin today with the Apostle John's account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. John was an eyewitness to the crucifixion, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His testimony and his Gospel are totally reliable and of course, inspired by the Holy Spirit.





John 20:1-20 "Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb (of Jesus), while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. (2) So, she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.'

(3) So, Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. (4) The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; (5) and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. (6) And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, (7) and the face-cloth which had been on His (Jesus') head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. (8) So, the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. (9) For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. (10) So, the disciples went away again to their own homes.



(11) But Mary (Magdalene) was standing outside the tomb crying; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; (12) and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. (13) And they said to her,

'Woman, why are you crying?' She said to them, 'Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.' (14) When she had said this, she turned around





and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. (15) Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Whom are you seeking?' Thinking He was 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.' (16) Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabboni!' (which means, Teacher). (17) Jesus said to her, 'Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren (the Apostles) and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.' (18) Mary

Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and that He had said these things to her. (19) So, when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' (20) And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord."

Listen, kids, Christianity would not exist without the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. If Jesus' resurrection did not happen then there would be no Christianity. Paul explains in *1 Cor 15:12-14*. *"Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (13) **But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; (14) and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain (useless), your faith also is vain (useless).**"* As believers in Jesus Christ, our faith, our hope rises or falls based on whether or not He rose from the dead and lives.

Thank our Father in heaven, that fact is not in doubt...It is REAL!!!

In fact, if the proof for His resurrection to be presented before a fair court, they would find without doubt that Jesus Christ rose from the dead three days after He was crucified on the cross.

Thomas Arnold, professor of history at Oxford University, one of the greatest historians of the 19th century, wrote this: "I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better, fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God has given us that Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead."

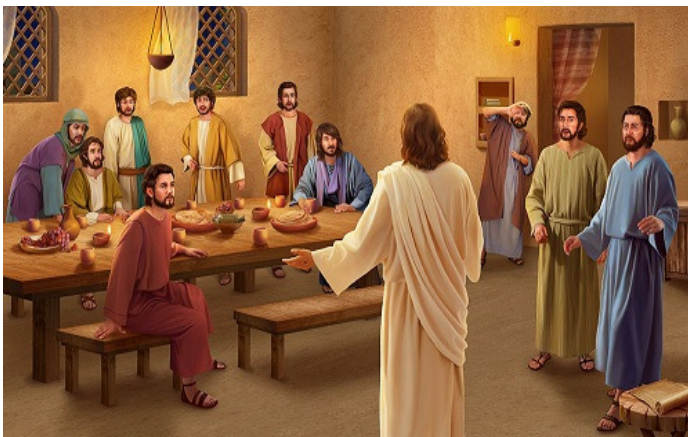
And Lord Darling, a former Chief Justice of England, said this: "There exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true."

There are over a dozen categories of proof that Christ rose from the dead. The body of proof can be grouped into 14 categories of proof!

1. Jesus Christ Himself predicted it would happen. God doesn't Lie.
2. He really died and was buried in a known, nearby tomb.
3. The Empty Tomb and the Grave Clothes.
4. The After-Resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ to people.
5. The foundation and spread of the Christian church.
6. The Recognition of the fact by His enemies.
7. The character of the witnesses to the resurrection.
8. The records of nonspiritual historians. The testimony of history and law.
9. The dramatic change in the disciples after the Resurrection.
10. The disciples' experience of divine power in the after-resurrection period.
11. The proof of the Day of Pentecost. The fact that the apostles emphasized the Resurrection in their teaching, and there is no record of any of their enemies attempting to contradict it.
12. The church custom of observing the first day of the week...Sunday.
13. The persecution of the disciples.
14. No denying by any of them of the resurrection, most of whom died violent deaths alone, separated from any of the others.

Three facts provide the strongest evidence that the resurrection occurred:

- The empty tomb of Jesus
- The appearances of Jesus to His disciples
- The foundation of the Christian faith



If it is a fact that the tomb was empty three days after His death and burial; if in fact, He did appear physically to His disciples and others after His death and burial and if the foundation of the Christian faith cannot be satisfactorily explained apart from His resurrection; then it is beyond a reasonable doubt that Jesus really did rise from the dead.

In the short time we have together in this lesson, we will examine the evidence for the first and most convincing proof: the empty tomb.

Now, the empty tomb is evidence of the resurrection only if Jesus died and was buried in that tomb. This is where his enemies attack Him...they say that His resurrection is not true...they are wrong and we will see that.



It is satisfactory to say that the proof that Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a clearly identified tomb is strong. In fact, we know more details about the death and burial of Jesus than we know about the death and burial of any other person in

ancient history. John 19:30-33 'Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' (salvation is complete) And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit (He died). (31) Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. (32) So, the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; (33) but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.'" This was a fulfillment of the prophesy in Psalm 34:20. "He keeps all his bones, not one of them is broken."

The Roman soldiers on the scene agreed that Jesus was physically dead. John 19:34-42 "But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. (35) And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. (36) For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, 'NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN.' (Psalm 34:20) (37) And again another Scripture says, 'THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED.' (Psalm 22:16)



(38) After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So, he came and took away His body. (39) Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight. (40) So, they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. (41) Now in the place where He was crucified there

was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. (42) Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. The Bible gives us the name of the man who took Jesus' body and brought it to the tomb for burial. It is Joseph and he comes from Arimathea, a city of the Jews. He was a member of the Jewish Pharisees or in other words the Jewish establishment. His friend and fellow believer & pharisee, Nicodemus was with him.

And by the way, our Lord's death on the cross was very public. Everybody knew about it because for three years Jesus was all over Galilee and Jerusalem and many other cities healing the sick and preaching the Good News of the Gospel that Jesus was the Messiah, Savior promised in the Old Testament. There were many, many eyewitnesses of His ministry and of His death. There were many people who wanted Him dead and would have waited around to be sure He was gone. There were many who did not want Jesus to die like He did but they didn't realize yet that that is exactly why He came...TO DIE, TO SAVE US...ALL MANKIND and TO RISE.

There are detailed accounts about the very tomb He was buried in. Matthew tells us that it was Joseph of Arimathea's own tomb. Let's see in [Matt 27:59-60](#). "And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, (60) and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had carved out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away." [Mark 15:46](#) and [Luke 23:53](#) tells us the same thing. Take the time to read them.





John 19:41 tells us it was located in the garden right near the place that He was crucified. We saw this in the beginning of this lesson above. "Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had been laid."

Women who had followed Jesus watched while Jesus's body was embalmed and wrapped and placed in that tomb. They knew exactly where it

was, because they visited the tomb again early on the first day of the week. You can also read about it in [Matt 28:1](#), [Mark 16:2](#); [Luke 24:1](#).

So, we know who owned the tomb, how it was made, its condition, and its location. We know it was sealed and guarded, and we know people who visited it. We know who buried Jesus, how many pounds of spices were used, and the wrappings for His body. The body was wound tightly in strips of cloth, and covered with spices.

We have four records in the four Gospels in the New Testament of the burial of the Lord, all of them in amazing agreement.

Also, there was a stone that covered the opening to Jesus' tomb. This stone was enormous. It usually required several men to remove it. Mary Magdalene and the other women told us this in [Mar 16:3-4](#). "They were saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?' (4) Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away although it was extremely large."



Jesus was so hated by the Chief priests and the Pharisees that they made very sure that Jesus' grave was secure. Look at [Matt 27:62-66](#) "Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, (63) and said, 'Sir, we remember that when He (Jesus) was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I *am to* rise again. (64) Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the

third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first.' (65) Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how.' And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone." The seal was placed so that the slightest disturbance would be noticeable. (See picture on page 8) The sealing was done in the presence of the Roman guards who were left in charge to protect this seal of Roman power and authority. The security measures taken at Jesus' tomb turn out to be among the most if not the most convincing set of proofs that the Resurrection occurred.



These Jewish leaders did their best to prevent the theft of Jesus' body, but they overdid it and because of it provided perfect proof of the empty tomb and so the resurrection of Jesus. Even against their own will these enemies of Jesus testified to the truth. All the proof that exists concerning the tomb on that first day of the week and thereafter shows that the tomb was empty. The empty tomb is a dramatic witness to the resurrection of the body of Jesus Christ.

The dead body of Jesus was laid in the new tomb cut out of the rock by its owner, Joseph of Arimathea. This happened at nightfall, after they killed the Son of God, in the place where He was crucified. The stone was rolled to seal that tomb, and the Jewish leaders made sure the tomb was sealed with the Roman seal and guards were posted.

Then all rested for the Sabbath period. And then, let's look again at [John 20:1-9](#) "Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. (2) So, she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.' (3) So, Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. (4) The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; (5) and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. (6) And so, Simon Peter

also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, (7) **and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.** (8) So, the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. (9) For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead." This account tells us with NO DOUBT that the Apostles, John and Peter were eye witnesses of the details after Jesus' resurrection...the personal touches, their careful examination, and specific details.

There is one very vivid detail here that turns out to be quite convincing in the way of proof pointing to the bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Look again at verse 7 above. See Simon Peter entered the tomb, and saw the linen wrappings lying there. These are the wrappings that Joseph and Nicodemus had applied to Jesus' body three days earlier. But Peter saw something else as well, something strange and wonderful as it turns out. He saw the face-cloth that had been on the Lord's head. It wasn't lying with the linen wrappings, but it was "rolled up" in a place by itself. **Jesus' resurrected body simply passed through His grave clothes.** In other words, Jesus didn't take them off with his hands, He simply rose up and His body came through the cloth without disturbing it!!!



The condition of the grave clothes also shows that the body had not been stolen by thieves or taken by the disciples. The scene in the tomb was not that of untidiness left by thieves in a big hurry to get away with Jesus' body. Besides, thieves would have left the grave clothes on the body! That would save time, and also allow them to quickly rebury the body later.

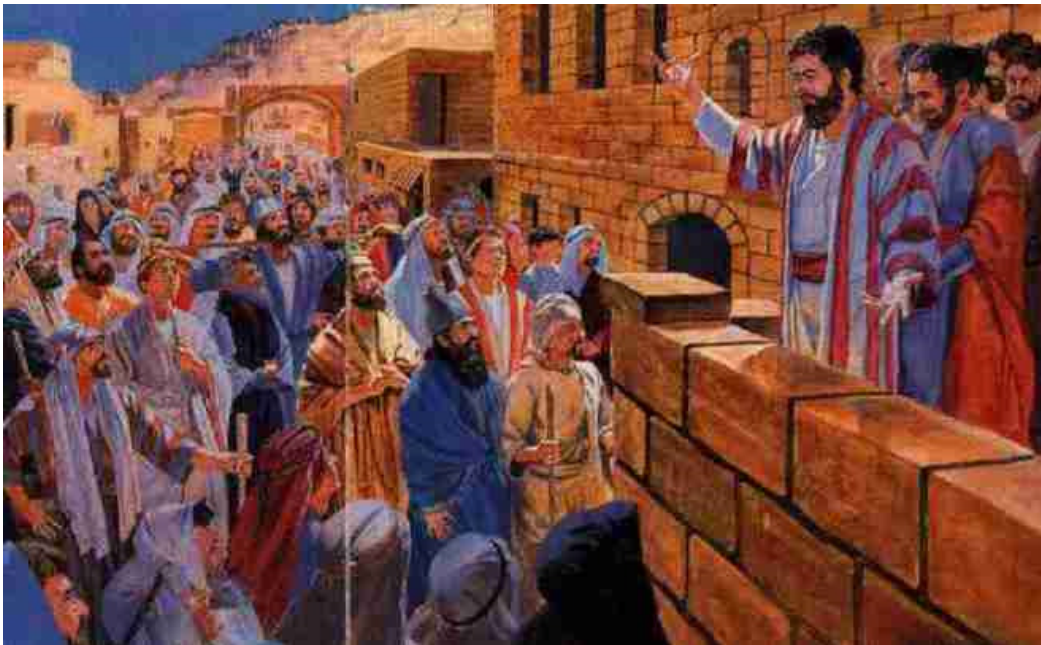
So, the testimony of the disciples, John and Peter, who carefully examined the tomb when they found the stone rolled away was that it was empty!

The guard who was stationed at the tomb that morning also unwillingly reported that it was empty. **Matt 28:11-15** "Now while they were on their way, some of the guards came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. (12) And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers (this was a bribe), (13) and said, '**You are to say, His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.** (14) And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.'

(15) And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is still to this day.” By the way, how could the guard have known that it was the disciples who stole the body if they had been sleeping, which they were?!

And notice the words “to this day”. Matthew wrote his gospel for the Jews. He wrote it years after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet down to this day long after the resurrection, the story was still widely spread among the Jews. If this conspiracy by the chief priests and the pharisees were not true, Matthew’s gospel account would have been completely doubted.

There is a complete lack of proof for any other explanation for the empty tomb besides the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. If the enemies of Christ had taken the body, it would have been better proof for them if they produced Jesus’ body to say that accounts that the apostles were giving were wrong. There is no proof in fact that the enemies of Jesus made any effort to try to find the supposedly stolen body of Jesus!



In the much public preaching to unbelievers that was recorded in the book of Acts, there is great importance on the fact of the resurrection, but not a single reference to the empty tomb.

Why?

It was because there was really no point in arguing about the empty tomb. Everyone, friend and enemy of Jesus, knew that it was empty, and what that empty tomb proved...Jesus rose from the dead!!!

Think about this: what city in the entire world, on the day of Pentecost (recorded in Acts), would have been (1) the most against to the Gospel message and (2) the most able to contradict the facts of the Resurrection?



The answer is the city of Jerusalem. And yet what did Jesus very specifically need his disciples to do first? Look at [Luke 24:46-47](#). "...and He said to them, 'So, it is written, that the Christ would suffer and **rise again**

from the dead the third day, (47) and that repentance (a change of mind) for forgiveness of sins would be announced in His name to all the nations, **beginning from Jerusalem.**" Please notice that Jesus specifically mentions that the announcement of the Gospel to all nations shall begin where? **In Jerusalem!!!** Start in the most hostile (most of them hated Jesus in Jerusalem) place of all, the place where they have the reason and the means to contradict the resurrection, if that was even possible...and IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE!

The resurrection story would not have survived for a day if the empty tomb were not a believed fact by everyone in Jerusalem.

It is a matter of history that the apostles from the very beginning caused many Jews in Jerusalem to believe in Jesus, as hostile as it was, by announcing the bodily resurrection of Jesus. And they did it just a short stroll away from the empty tomb. Any one of the hearers could have visited the tomb that same day. And why didn't any of the enemies of Jesus ever protest? Why didn't the Jewish leaders simply prove the Resurrection had not taken place by taking people to the tomb to show them the dead body of Jesus? If they did, it would have stopped Christianity right then and there!!!

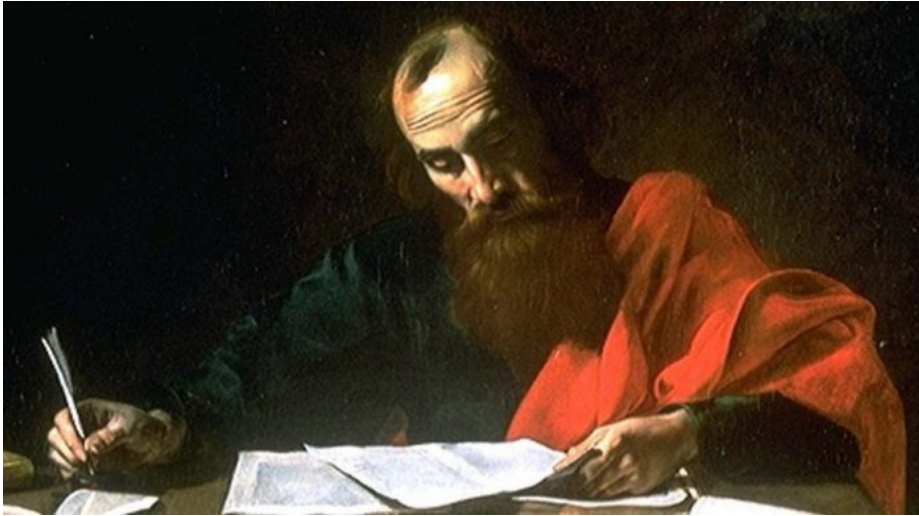
We are never told that any responsible person ever insisted that the body of Jesus was still in the tomb. We are only given ridiculous explanations about why Jesus' body was not there. "The dog ate my homework" kind of excuse. As we saw above in [Matthew 28:11-15](#), the only reason the Jewish authorities gave was that the disciples stole the body but they bribed the Roman guards to say that. Still NO PROOF.

The worst enemies of Jesus admitted the tomb was empty. The empty tomb is the powerful witness to the fact of the resurrection of Jesus and there is much, much more proof for the resurrection of Christ, as we saw in the list of categories earlier in the lesson.

There were at least 15 after-resurrection appearances of Jesus to His disciples. He appeared to individuals as well as groups. The appearances came in many different locations. We are given the names of many persons who saw Him alive.



Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians, written over 20 years after the death of Christ, that our risen Lord appeared to over 500 disciples at one time. Many of those disciples were still alive when Paul wrote [1 Corinthians](#) so they were available to be interviewed at the time. Let's look at it: [1 Cor 15:3-9](#) "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (Old Testament prophecies), (4) and that He was buried, and that **He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**, (5) and that He appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the twelve. (6) After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain (alive) until now, but some have fallen asleep (died); (7) then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; (8) and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. (9) For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."



The writers of the gospel accounts: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were accusing the Roman governor, the Roman military, and the powerful Jewish leaders for the death of Jesus. Their names are Herod, Pilate, Caiaphas, and Joseph of Arimathea. Why then would Matthew when he

wrote his gospel include a quotation from the powerful Roman centurion who oversaw the crucifixion of Jesus in [Matt 27:54](#)? “...truly this was the Son of God!” Listen, if that Roman centurion hadn't said that, Matthew wouldn't have written it in his gospel. The Holy Spirit had Matthew write it so, you know it is TRUE! To have this centurion say it made a fool of Jesus' powerful enemies!!! Also, Matthew risked being tortured and even death to write and preach what he did about the death and resurrection of Christ. It is unthinkable that they would have done this if they were not convinced that these events actually happened. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Stephen, Peter, James, and Paul. What was in it for them?



The accounts they wrote included many shameful details about their own personal behavior. Why would they include the fact that all the apostles ran away from Christ when He was taken prisoner? **Why would the gospel writers show Peter, the leader of the early church, as the awful person who denied Jesus?** Why would Paul

make up the fact that he was the worst sinner who ever lived? Or that he persecuted the church, if it were not true?

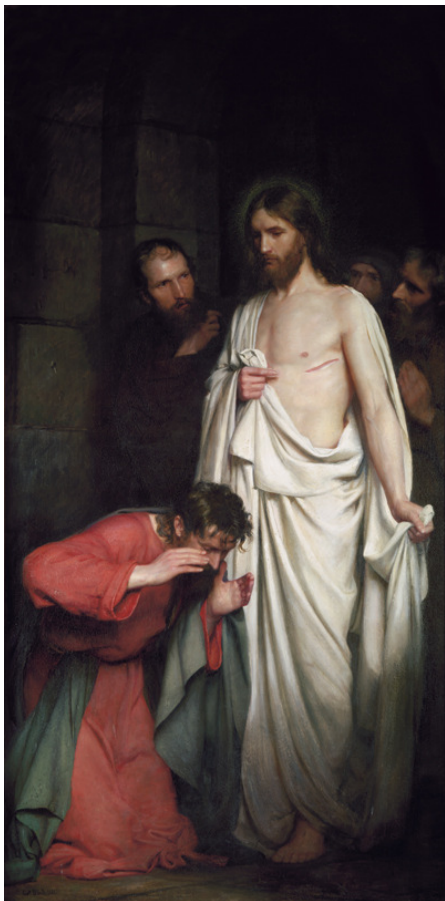
Paul was a respected rabbi before he became a believer in Jesus. After he was saved, he became a traveling missionary and declared over and over again the same faith he had earlier persecuted before he became a believer. And he experienced terrible, terrible suffering doing that. Why would he give up everything, if he hadn't seen the resurrected Jesus Christ?

Here's another example: women were thought of as lower than men in Jewish society. In fact, they could not serve as legal witnesses in court. So, why would the gospels tell us that the first witnesses to the empty tomb were women if it didn't happen that way?

Why would they include the fact that they didn't understand that He would rise again? Or that they did not believe the first reports that He had?

Why would a bunch of Galilean fishermen and tax collectors start their movement in Jerusalem of all places? Wouldn't it have been better to flee to Galilee with their tall tale? They could be found out and killed!!!

But the resurrection of Jesus was TRUE and it stands today. It was prophesized in the Old Testament and in the Gospels. Remember the Holy Spirit directed all the writers of the Bible and He is GOD and cannot lie.



Even one of Jesus' own Apostles' doubted that He was resurrected when his fellow Apostles told him. Thomas was absent the day Jesus appeared to them the first time in Galilee. [John 20:24-26](#). "But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. (25) So, the other disciples were saying to him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.' (26) After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, 'Peace be with you.' (27) Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.' (28) Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!' (29) Jesus said to him, 'Because you have seen Me, have you

believed? **Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.**" Look at this last statement Jesus made. He's talking about us!!! We have never seen Him and we believe in Him!!!

So, dear kids, as you can see, this lesson really taught you a lot about the how Jesus' resurrection was not believed by those who hated Him and by



His own Apostles at first until they saw Him alive!! Are you shocked? Don't be. Remember our enemy, the devil is always trying to make you doubt the Word of God, God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. He works day and night to pull mankind away from God. He even tries to get you as a believer to doubt **EVERYTHING! DON'T!**

It is SO IMPORTANT that you study God's Word EVERYDAY. NEVER QUIT! Put on the Armor of God. Keep it on so you can win this daily battle against the devil.

Witness to your friends and family that Jesus is the ONLY SAVIOR and He

died in our place on the cross to pay the penalty of all the sins of all mankind. Tell them He was buried, and then rose again from death and is ALIVE today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven, praying for us all the time. **John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."**

Celebrate that Jesus is ALIVE and LOVES you. NEVER FORGET.

Until next time, stay in God's Word...

Close in prayer.

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 4-1-2018
Lighthouse Bible Church www.lbible.org

