



Who is Jesus?, Pt. 1: He is Risen

Christianity didn't evolve over a long period of time; it sprang to life! Yet 2000 years later, there are skeptics still challenge the central claim of the Christian faith: the resurrection of Jesus and the empty tomb. Part one of this series discusses why the resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith and how eye witness evidence and Roman history supports this claim.

Bottom Line: It's impossible to adequately explain the explosive birth of Christianity without the resurrection of Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think people are skeptical about the resurrection? What are some of the objections you have heard about the resurrection? Do you think these objections affect believers? If so, how?
2. According to Tacitus, a Roman Historian, Christianity spread so rapidly that within 30 years "an immense multitude" of Christians lived in Rome. Discuss how this could have happened.
3. Even though Tacitus corroborated the account of the resurrection hundreds of years after the event, people are still skeptical, many believe it's a myth or a hoax. Why do you think this is?
4. The first person Jesus revealed himself to after the resurrection was Mary. In those days eye-witness accounts by women weren't considered reliable. So why did Jesus reveal himself to a woman first?
5. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.** Discuss the eye witness accounts documented by the Apostle Paul. Why were these eyewitnesses so important to the spread of Christianity?
6. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-19.** How did seeing Jesus after the resurrection inspire the followers to carry out Jesus' wishes? Describe their behaviors and sacrifices.
7. **Read 1 Peter 1:3.** Peter denied Jesus and betrayed Him at the moment of his critical need, yet Jesus forgave him and restored him. How does this give you hope?
8. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
9. How can the group encourage you this week?

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.