
Resurrection Sunday

Does it Matter that Jesus Came Back to Life? – John 20:24–31

Sermon Outline – April 1, 2018

Children’s Sermon: How Do You Know What is Real?

- **Real Life Story vs. Made Up Story**
- **According to John, are the stories about Jesus made up or real?**

1 John 1:1–4 (NLT)

¹ We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. ² This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.

Does it Matter that Jesus Came Back to Life?

Yes. There is not a more important event in human history!

Notes:

Today’s Clear Biblical Bullet...

Our faith is built on the compelling, historical evidence of the risen Jesus.



The Instruction of Thomas

Thomas Rejects the Evidence

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, *was not with them when Jesus came*. ²⁵ **So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.”** But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

John 14:2–3

² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

John 16:32

³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.

- The Empty Tomb (John 20:4-9)
- Testimony of Mary Magdalene (John 20:18)

Jesus Shows Mercy to Thomas (26-28)

Jesus Corrects Thomas

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “*Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*”

The Purpose for John’s Gospel Account

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (Cf. 1 John 1:1–4)

What Kind of Faith in Jesus is Taught in the Bible?

The kind of “faith in Jesus” taught in the Bible is built on compelling, historical evidence of the risen Jesus.

This Understanding of Faith is not Unique to John

Luke 1:1–4

¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of *the things that have been accomplished among us*, ² just as those who from the beginning were *eyewitnesses* and ministers of the word *have delivered them to us*, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ *that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.*

Acts 1:1–3

³ He [Jesus] presented himself alive to them after his suffering by *many proofs*, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Romans 1:4

⁴ and [Jesus] was *declared to be the Son of God* in power according to the Spirit of holiness *by his resurrection from the dead*, Jesus Christ our Lord...

1 Corinthians 15:17

¹⁷ And *if Christ has not been raised*, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Can We Trust the Bible?

"We'll be able to say, confidently, that...

1. we have good translations of the biblical manuscripts;
2. those manuscripts are accurate copies of what was originally written;
3. the books we're looking at are indeed the right and best books to look at;
4. the authors of those documents really did intend to tell us accurately what happened;
5. and there's no good reason to think they were mistaken in what they saw and recorded.

However you look at it, these affirmations would establish a pretty solid foundation for thinking that we really can accept the Bible as historically reliable." ¹

If Jesus Did Rise from the Dead...

1. Then the Bible can be Trusted
2. **Christian:** Your Faith is Built on Solid Ground
3. **Non-Christian:** You have been presented good news for people who are going to die! **Consider the promise Jesus made while speaking to Martha...**

John 11:25–26

²⁵ Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. *Do you believe this?*"

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Do you believe the clear testimony concerning Jesus?



¹ Gilbert, Greg. Why Trust the Bible? (9Marks) (p. 22). Crossway. Kindle Edi