



HEBRON

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HE HAS RISEN

Mark 15:40-16:8

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Romans 4:22-25 That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." 23 But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Akin: Jesus' resurrection is historically certain and eternally significant. In it He defeated the power of death and guaranteed the future resurrection of His people.

There is a thought that the early Christians invented the empty tomb and the meetings or sightings of the risen Jesus.

From Mark's Gospel we can learn why Jesus' followers were the last ones who would make up a lie about Jesus' resurrection.

- **Despite Jesus telling them all that would happen, even His most devoted followers still were not expecting His resurrection.**
 - They should have been expecting it. (Mark 8:31; 9:30-32; 10:32-34)
 - The women
 - They're going to the tomb on the day after the Sabbath not in expectation but because of dedication.
 - Anointing spices were purchased because there was no anticipation of what was promised.
 - Their worry about the stone reveals their concern about getting in and not their certainty that Jesus was already out.
 - The religious leaders
 - They want guards posted not to keep Jesus in but to keep His disciples out.
(Matthew 27:62-66)
 - Keller: To all the dominant worldviews of the time, an individual bodily resurrection was almost inconceivable.

- **When His resurrection was announced to His followers, they were alarmed and astonished.**
 - They were surprised by:
 - The stone being rolled away
 - An angel sitting in the tomb
 - Jesus' body not being there – He is risen; He is not here
 - Important facts
 - Not a case of mistaken identity – Jesus of Nazareth
 - Not a case of mistaken death – who was crucified
 - Not a case of mistaken tomb – See the place where they laid Him
 - Only mistake was failing to trust – Just as He told you

- **As His disciples, we are to go and tell.**
 - Their responsibility
 - Go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee.
 - Their initial reaction
 - Went out and fled the tomb
 - Trembling and astonished
 - They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.
 - Their eventual reaction (Matthew 28:8-10; Luke 24:8-11, 22-23)
 - We have not only their announcement but Jesus' appearances.
 - The first accounts of the empty tomb and the eyewitnesses are not found in the gospels, but in the letters of Paul, written 15-20 years after the death of Jesus.
(1 Corinthians 15:1-8)
 - If you deny the reality of the resurrection, you cannot deny the reactions of His followers.
 - Keller: The skeptic then cannot just dismiss the Christian teaching about the resurrection of Jesus by saying, "It just couldn't have happened." He or she must face and answer all these historical questions:
 - Why did Christianity emerge so rapidly, with such power?
 - No other band of messianic followers in that era concluded their leader was raised from the dead – why did this group do so?
 - No group of Jews ever worshipped a human being as God. What led them to do it?
 - Jews did not believe in divine men or individual resurrections. What changed their worldview virtually overnight?
 - How do you account for the hundreds of eyewitnesses to the resurrection who lived on for decades and publicly maintained their testimony, eventually giving their lives for their belief?

What will be our reaction to the reality of the resurrection?

- 1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
- Why should we do this?
 - Because God has decisively answered the women's question, "Who will roll the stone away?" – not only from Jesus' grave but also from ours. (Hebrews 2:14-15)
 - Because the message of Jesus' resurrection transforms a hopeless end into an endless hope.
(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 - Because we've been told to go and tell too. (Matthew 28:19-20)
 - Because Christ goes before us. (Hebrews 13:12-15)