

## EASTER 2024

Andy Deane · 3/31/2024 · Matthew 28

HAPPY RESURRECTION SUNDAY! Today we'll look at reasons to believe Jesus is risen from Matthew 28.

### Six reasons why I believe in the resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28:1-19)

1. The tomb is empty!
  - If the tomb was not empty Christianity would not have even started.
  - Jewish leaders posted guards and they would have exhumed the tomb if they thought Jesus was there.
2. The fulfilled prophecies!
  - Matthew 16:21, *From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*
3. The choice of the first eye-witnesses!
  - The first to see Jesus were only women. Why? Because it was true, although it was not ideal because in the first century because in Jewish culture a women's testimony was not admissible as legal evidence in court).
  - There was incentive not to mention that, but they did because it was the truth.
4. The holes in the cover-up!
  - Why did the Jewish leaders not demand search for Jesus' body? They could have ordered one from Rome.
  - The lie the disciples stole Jesus body isn't believable because they were cowards who fled from the cross.
5. The initial skepticism of some of the disciples!
  - If you were crafting a story, would you include this? No! There was incentive to not mention it, but they did!
  - This is an embarrassing detail that would only be included if it were true.
6. The transformation of the disciples after seeing Jesus!
  - Jesus told uneducated fisherman to change the world & they responded, "yup". Why? They saw Jesus alive!
  - Former cowards were now bold witnesses who would go on to die for their faith according to church history.

### The resurrection means that Jesus can be with you (Matthew 28:20)

1. Jesus is with you: even if you feel unworthy!
  - Matthew 28:20, *surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*
  - Romans 8:15-16, *...the Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*
2. Jesus is with you: through your church community!
  - Matthew 28:20, *surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*
  - The "you" in this verse is plural (it's a "ya'll"). Jesus is present in the church community.
3. Jesus is with you: in all circumstances!
  - Matthew 28:20, *surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*
  - He didn't go to the grave and back to just ditch you now! No matter what you're going through He is with you!
4. Jesus is with you: when this life ends!
  - Matthew 28:20, *surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*
  - Jesus is at the end of your story and at the end of history!
  - Jesus promises to be a friend with you ("to the very end") through all of eternity.

### These amazing blessings are for anyone who has a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

- Romans 14:9, *...to this end Christ died & rose & lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead & the living.*
- Romans 10:9, *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

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- Text NEW to (951)425-4425 if you a visitor to Cornerstone and we'll send you a Starbucks gift-card.
- Text REASONS to (951)425-4425 to dive deeper into some of the reasons to believe in the resurrection.
- Text JOURNEY to (951)425-4425 if you've recently started your journey with Jesus. We want to support you!

Join us next week as we start a new series called FAMILY PORTRAITS. We'll be discussing how Jesus in the center of life changes everything for: marriage, parenting, singleness, & blended families.