

EASTER AT ENCOUNTER

Matthew 27:57 — 28:1

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MESSAGE NOTES

What happened? Could it be true? And what difference does it make?

“Sir,” they said, “we remember that while He was still alive that deceiver said, “After three days I will rise again.” — Matthew 27:63

- The Messiah would be hailed as a conquering king, but who would come riding on a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)
— Jesus did. (Luke 19:35 – 38)
- The Messiah would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. (Zechariah 11:12,13)
— Jesus was. (Matthew 26:15; 27:5 – 8)
- The guards would gamble for His robe. (Psalm 22:18)
— They did. (John 19:23 – 24)
- The Messiah would be crucified and pierced through, yet none of His bones would be broken which was customary. (Zechariah 12:10; Psalm 22:16,17)
— Which is what happened. (John 19:33 – 34)

“Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” — Matthew 27:65

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that **He appeared** to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, **most of whom are still living** ... — 1 Corinthians 15:3 – 6*

A message calling people to repent and put their faith in a risen man could never have gained any substantial following amongst the Jews if the tomb had not actually been empty and had the Jewish people not seen Jesus alive after His crucifixion. — Josh McDowell, A Ready Defense

Indeed, taking all the evidence together, it is not too much to say that there is no historic incident better or more variously supported than the resurrection of Christ. — Canon Westcott, Cambridge

I’m no theologian. My approach to Classics is historical. And I tell you that the evidence for the life, the death, and the resurrection of Christ is better authenticated than most of the facts of ancient history. — E. M. Blaidock, Auckland University

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. — Matthew 28:1

... if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. — Romans 8:11

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. — 1 Peter 3:1

Either He did or He didn't rise from the dead. If He did, it was the most sensational event in all of history, and we have conclusive answers to the profound questions of our existence... If Christ rose, we know with certainty that God exists, what He is like, and how we may know Him in personal experience; the universe takes on meaning and purpose. — Paul Little, Know Why You Believe

What does this mean for you?

Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. — John 17:3

For a clear and concise overview of the compelling evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ; you can go to this website alwaysbeready.com/resurrection-of-christ?id=273

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some realities in our culture that can foster skepticism about everything we hear?
- When it comes to the resurrection of Jesus, what do you think many people feel?
- What are some of the questions you wrestled with in coming to faith?
- Take a look again at your notes from the weekend and read over Matthew 27:57 – 28:1 just to refresh your memory.
- What is significant about the fact that Christ's enemies had heard His claims? (It wasn't just the disciples who quoted His predictions.)
- In what way was putting a guard at the tomb actually part of God's plan to address our skepticism?