

Still Empty

Luke 24:1-8

Introduction:

- A. Today, all across the globe, Christians are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.
- B. The resurrection is the foundation of our faith (I Cor. 15:3-8; 14, 17).
- C. Many skeptics think Christians are crazy for believing in the idea of a resurrection.
 - 1. Paul encountered skeptics of the resurrection (Acts 17:32; 26:24).
 - 2. Paul believed he spoke with “true and rational words (Acts 26:25).

The Early Prophecies

- A. We read about the resurrection in both the Old and New Testaments (Psalm 16:10; Mark 8:31-32; Jn. 2:19-22).
- B. The Pharisees understood the claims Jesus made (Matt. 27:62-66).

The Empty Tomb

- A. The Jews could have stopped the apostle’s teaching by producing the body of Jesus (Mt. 28:11-15).
- B. There are only two real possibilities: either the body of Jesus was removed or it was resurrected.
- C. The disciples removing the body would have been more difficult than it sounds.
 - 1. The disciples had not even anticipated the resurrection (Mk. 16:11-13; Lk. 24:11; Jn. 20:24-25).
 - 2. The tomb was sealed and guards were placed at the entrance (Matt. 27:65-66).

The Eye Witnesses

- A. Paul said over 500 people saw Jesus at the same time (I Cor. 15:5-8).
- B. Peter was an eye witness of his majesty (2 Pet. 1:16).
- C. Women were the ones to discover the empty tomb and became the first evangelists (Matt. 28:5-8).

The Eager Defense

- A. The disciples changed from cowards to men of courage and conviction (Mt. 26:56; Acts 4:17-21).
- B. The disciples had no real motivation for lying and suffering as they did just to preach a resurrection.
- C. People might die for religious beliefs but most would never die for a lie (Acts 12:2; 2 Cor. 11:24-33).

Conclusion:

- A. The resurrection of Jesus isn’t just some fairytale to believe. It’s a historical fact to behold.
- B. Some 2,000 years ago Jesus rose from the grave and the tomb is still empty today!