

# Resurrection of Christ

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon  
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2011

## Intro

- 'The resurrection of Jesus Christ is either one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted on the minds of human beings--or it is the most remarkable fact of history'. - Josh McDowell
- This morning we will look at Jesus' resurrection:  
The events surrounding the resurrection, the nature of the resurrection and the importance of the resurrection.

## The events surrounding the resurrection

*(3 children to read in next section).*

### Foretold

- Jesus predicted many times both His manner of death and also His resurrection (Matthew 12:40, 16:21, 17:9, 22-23, 20:17-19, 26:32, Mark 8:31, 9:9, 30-31, 10:32-34, 14:28, Luke 9:21-22, 18:31-33).
- He said He would be betrayed and crucified and would rise again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day:  
"From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things ... and be killed, and be raised up on the third day" (Matthew 16:21).
- The Old Testament also predicted Jesus would be raised from the dead:

I know the LORD is always with me.  
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.  
No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.  
My body rests in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead  
or allow your holy one to rot in the grave. (Psalm 16:8-10)

After two days He will revive us;  
On the third day He will raise us up,  
That we may live in His sight. (Hosea 6:2)

(See also Psalm 30:3, Psalm 49:15)

*3 chairs set up for a child to lie on. Volunteer child to be Jesus. Volunteers to be Roman soldiers.*

### Jesus definitely died

- Roman flogging.
- Crucifixion. Roman soldiers made sure you were dead.
- Spear in side- water and blood (blood separates from the serum in death- medical proof of death).

### Jesus laid in a tomb

- Joseph of Arimathea's family tomb, freshly hewn, not been used. Was in his garden near to the cross. ?Gordon's calvary. Joseph of Arimatea and Nicodemus fetched the body. They were in the Sanhedrin and had not voted with the others, but were secret believers.
- A cave. A huge stone rolled to block the entrance.
- Strips of cloth would have been wrapped around him (like a mummy).
- Spices would have been added. Pasted on. Set like a broken arm.
- Guards set at the tomb.
- A seal put on the stone.

## Whilst dead

- Dead from Friday 3pm to Sunday morning.
- He said to the thief on the cross 'today you will be with me in paradise'. This is the intermediate state. He was in Heaven with God the Father in the sense of 'the first resurrection'- the resurrection of the soul (see Revelation).

## Jesus was raised from the dead

- Through the wrappings- cocoon. Bandages round pencil
- John believed when he saw the wrappings undisturbed where they were left- John 20:5-8. The linen strips on the ground, but the head cloth folded up on it's own (like someone making their bed when they rise).
- (Get volunteer Jesus to resurrect)
- Stone moved away by angel. Angels appeared to soldiers and they were so afraid they fell down as if dead.
- Soldiers went straightaway and told the Jewish leaders and got protection. Told to make up a story of the disciples stealing the body.
- Jesus appeared to His contemporaries offering them “many infallible proofs” that He was alive (Acts 1:3).
- Jesus appears to a series of people:
  1. Mary Magdalene, shortly after his resurrection. (Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18.)
  2. The women returning from the empty tomb. (Matthew 28:8-10.)
  3. Two disciples on the road to Emmaus. (Mark 16:12,13; Luke 24:13-35.)
  4. Peter. (Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5.)
  5. His disciples, in Jerusalem-Thomas is absent. (Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23.)
  6. His disciples, in Jerusalem-Thomas is present. (John 20:24-29.)
  7. His disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. (Matthew 28:16; John 21:1,2.)
  8. **500** believers at one time. (1 Corinthians 15:6.)
  9. James. **His brother, and author of the book of James, who was formerly an unbeliever.** (1 Corinthians 15:7).
  10. His disciples on a mountain in Galilee. (Matthew 28:16-20.)
  11. His disciples, blesses them, and ascends into heaven. (Luke 24:50-53.)
  12. Paul, on the road to Damascus. **Who formerly was an unbeliever and persecuted the Church, but became a great witness for Christ and wrote many letters in scripture.** (Acts 9:3-6; 1 Corinthians 15:8.)
- Jesus appeared over a 40 day period, and on many occasions.

## His enemies could not deny it

- All the opponents of Christianity needed to do to stop it was display the body of Christ, but they could not- the tomb was empty!  
The pyramids of Egypt are famous because they contained the mummified bodies of ancient Egyptian kings. Westminster Abbey in London is renowned, because in it rests the bodies of English nobles and notables. Mohammed's tomb is noted for the stone coffin and the bones it contains. The Garden Tomb of Jesus is famous because it is empty!
- The Jews knew that something had taken place, but they could not refute the facts (Matt. 28:15). This shows Matthew's honesty in exposing the only explanation attempted by Christ's enemies.
- Fifty days after the resurrection, Peter openly preached the resurrection to the Jews from fifteen countries, without any hint of refutation. Three thousand Jews became believers in Christ (Acts 2:14, 24, 31-36).

- Paul preached the resurrection to Festus, the governor, and King Agrippa, without refutation (Acts 25:19, 26:23-26).
- Hostile witnesses.
- Changed lives then and today.
- Most of Jesus' followers laid down their lives for their testimony of Christ.

## **The nature of the resurrection**

### **How Jesus looked**

- He was recognisable but different- like someone you haven't seen for ages.
- He had scars- there was evidence it was the same person, but the wounds had healed- we will have perfect bodies.

### **The nature of His body- eternal**

- He was raised never to die again, or age again.
- Reversal of entropy- the second law of thermodynamics. First law= amount of energy in universe is constant. 2<sup>nd</sup> law says the amount of useable energy for work is going down, and amount of useless forms of energy is increasing. I.e. Things in a closed off system will eventually decay and becoming less ordered and random unless an external force puts in the work necessary and breaks into the system. This is seen in all areas of life. Jesus has broken into the system of death and brought life.
- God will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more pain, or curse, or sin, or sickness etc.

### **The nature of His body- physical**

- Thought they'd seen a ghost at first. Why? Didn't expect to see Him. When else had this happened before He died? When Jesus walked on water- they thought it was His ghost. Jesus made it clear on these occasions He was not a ghost  
- my parents when my mum had gone to loo & my dad did not realise & she got back into bed & he thought she was a ghost.
- Shake few people's hands- people could touch Him
- Eat something
- He sounded like Jesus.
- He had Jesus' knowledge- knew them and taught them
- He had Jesus' character, personality.

### **The nature of His body- supernatural**

- Could disappear- Emmaus road encounter- He disappeared before their eyes when He broke bread.
- Could appear even in locked rooms.
- Ascended into Heaven.
- Appeared in different form to different people.

### **The resurrection of Jesus is important because it sets Jesus above all the religions of the world.**

- He was declared to be God's Son through the resurrection:  
'He was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Rom 1:4)
- If Jesus had simply been a martyr, He'd be no different to any other major political leader or religious icon. Josh McDowell, 'Evidence that demands a verdict' says:

"All but four of the major world religions are based on mere philosophical propositions. Of the four that are based on personalities rather than a philosophical system, only Christianity claims an empty tomb for it's

founder.

- Abraham, the founder of Judaism, died about 1900 BC but no resurrection was ever claimed for him.
- The original accounts of Buddha never ascribe to him any such thing as resurrection; in fact, in the earliest accounts of his death, we read that when Buddha died it was "with that utter passing away in which nothing whatever remains behind."
- There is no trace in the Pali scriptures or commentaries of Sakya Muni having existed after his death or appearing to his disciples.
- Mohammed died, June 8<sup>th</sup> 632 A.D. at the age of 61, in the city of Medina where his tomb is visited annually by thousands of devout Muslims. All the millions of Jews, Muslims and Buddhists agree that their founders have never come up out of the dust of the earth in resurrection."

## The importance of the resurrection

### It guarantees our resurrection- 'Firstfruits'

- We shall have physical resurrection bodies like His:

And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. 1Cor 15:49

'who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:21)

'For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.' (Romans 8:29)

- 1Cor 15:20-23 says 'But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the **first-fruits** of them that are asleep'
- Firstfruits means there are more of the same to come!
- Firstfruits commanded in Lev 23:9-14 & Num 28:26-31. When they came into Israel & had their own fields they were to take the first part of the harvest (marked start of the 2 month spring harvest). Grain taken from the harvest and 5.1 pints of grain ground and offered at the temple to God.
- More significantly the priest was to take a sheaf of the grain and wave it before God in the temple. This was to be done on the day after the Sabbath of the passover. Therefore if the passover was on a Monday it would be nearly a week later on the Sunday. However, if passover happened on a Friday, then it would be presented to God on the third day. It just so happened that Jesus died on the passover to fulfill it, actually on a Friday, so that when Jesus rose from the dead He also fulfilled the firstfruit feast, literally on the same day (the Sunday after the Sabbath- i.e. The 3<sup>rd</sup> day after the passover).
- Difference between the other resurrections in scripture by Jesus, and that happen now- Jesus first to get His NEW body!

### It means that our sins have been punished- the price is paid

- Christ was handed over to death to deal with our sins and raise in order to effect our justification. (Rom 4:25)
- If Christ is not raised then we are still in our sins:

'If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is empty, and your faith also is empty.... if Christ has not been raised your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.' (1Cor 15:14, 17)

- How would we know if the sacrifice for our sins was successful or not if Christ had not risen from the dead?

### It means we have resurrection power in us

- Rom 8- Power over sin & death. Sanctification. Gal 5- the fruit of the Spirit.
- Jesus took the penalty of sin on the cross and demonstrated power over sin on our behalf by rising from the dead- sin no longer has power over Him because sin and

- death are partners in crime and Jesus cannot die again, He has conquered it
- In the same way we are to regard sin as conquered in us- defeated once and for all, and live like we believe it is true.- Read Rom 6:1-14
  - Application- Are you struggling with a particular sin? Sometimes we feel powerless, but we are not powerless- Christ is in us. Start to believe that the power of that sin is broken. Start declaring and behaving like it is. See yourself as a saint because that is what you are-1Cor 1:2 . 'I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we react to it.' Charles Swindol. "
- I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be. But I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, 'By the grace of God I am what I am.'" -- John Newton, author of "Amazing Grace"

## **Summary**

Jesus resurrection:

- The event
- It's nature
- It's importance

*Song: He has risen*