



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Peter, Jude Sermon Series

Supports Session 8: Our Savior

Sermon Title: “Proof Of The Resurrection” (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

Connection to Session 8

Mark provided a firsthand, eyewitness account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The sermon text for today likewise provides additional proof of the resurrection. Paul taught the church at Corinth that Scripture predicted the resurrection. Furthermore, a small group and a large group of people also provided proof. All examples point to the fact that Jesus rose from the dead.

Introduction/Opening

Some here today grew up with brothers and sisters. Those of us who did grow up this way have been guilty of agreeing to something less than 100% accurate to cover for a sibling. Our breaking point, however, was when a parent would begin to explain the consequences of holding onto our agreed-upon story. We may be willing to experience consequences for the truth, but we were not willing to go down for a fabrication. Today, we are looking at true accounts of the resurrection. Those who professed to see Jesus alive suffered tremendously for their beliefs, yet they never wavered. They knew it to be true and never recanted.

Outline

1. The resurrection was predicted (vv. 3-4)

Context: We need to understand the context to best understand the passage. The church at Corinth was struggling. Sin was rampant within the church. Paul was seeking to pastor them by teaching them God’s ways as opposed to the ways of the world. In First Corinthians 15, Paul taught about the truth of the resurrection to combat false beliefs.

- a. *Scripture predicted His death and burial (v. 3).* The word “gospel” means good news. If we understand that we need good news, then we have to acknowledge that there is bad news too. Verses three and four give us both the bad news and good news. The bad news is that we are sinners. The good news is that “Christ died for our sins” (v. 3). For our sins show that we have missed the mark or standard that God set before us, and Paul pointed out that Jesus’ death took place “according to the Scriptures” (v. 3). Approximately 700 years before the time of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah said, “He was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds.” (Isa. 53:5). We, like the church at Corinth can look to the cross of Jesus and see this passage lived out.
- b. *Scripture predicted His resurrection (v. 4).* The Scripture not only predicted Jesus’ death and burial, but it also predicted His resurrection. The prophet Hosea said, “He will revive us after two days, and on the third day he will raise us up so we can live in his presence” (Hos. 6:2). The resurrection of Jesus was not a made-up story, but rather a truth that was taught hundreds of years before the fact. All

someone needed to do during that time to disprove the resurrection was to show the body of Jesus. No one was able to do this because there was no body. The tomb was empty, Jesus was alive, and the Scriptures accurately predicted this.

2. The resurrection was witnessed (vv. 5-8)

- a. *He appeared to a select few (v. 5).* One of, if not the best, proof of something is an eyewitness. One of, if not the best, indicators of the truthfulness of an eyewitness is the price the witness is willing to pay without recanting the story. Paul clearly stated that Jesus appeared to Peter and the other disciples in resurrected form. These are the same disciples who on the night of Jesus' arrest "deserted him and ran away" (Matt. 26:56). These are the same disciples who on the evening of the resurrection "were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews" (John 20:19). These are also the ones who died as martyrs for the truth that Jesus had defeated death and died as a substitute for the sins of the world. They knew this to be true because they saw Jesus with their own eyes.
- b. *He appeared to a multitude (v. 6).* Some may try to convince us that the disciples would have been willing to propagate a false narrative. Even if the Twelve had made up the story, you would not have been able to convince more than 500 to embrace the same story. Paul also acknowledged that some of the 500 who saw Jesus were still alive at the time of his writing. If those in Corinth wanted to know if the resurrection was true, all they had to do was ask some of the eyewitnesses.

3. The resurrection changed people (vv. 9-11)

The final and greatest proof of the resurrection is a changed life, and Paul offered himself as proof. Paul understood that he was "not worthy to be called an apostle" because he had persecuted the church (1 Cor. 15:9). Yet through the grace of God, he had been changed and was faithfully proclaiming the message he had sought to discredit. Paul believed the message so much that he, too, gave his life for this fact.

Conclusion

We started today's message with a common story of siblings who agree to a fabrication to avoid punishment. As soon as pressure is applied, the story falls apart. The collapse of the story is evidence that it is not true. The truth of the resurrection is more than a story—it is the gospel truth. We know it to be true because it was predicted hundreds of years in advance. We know it to be true through the testimony of a small group as well as several hundred. We know it to be true through a changed life. This same gospel can change lives today as well. Let's not leave here today with simply knowing about the resurrection. Instead, let's commit to know Jesus personally and invite Him to change us from the inside out through a personal relationship with Him as our Lord and Savior.

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