

# Evidence for the Resurrection

## Easter Sunday, 2020

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### Key Truth:

We can trust that the Resurrection is true because God graciously records it in the events of human history.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is both a supernatural miracle and an established fact of history. Though some refuse to believe that Jesus rose from the dead, there were eye witnesses and substantial evidence, which both support and affirm the gospel story.

### DISCUSS

Read **Matthew 28:1-10** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on the **Evidence for the Resurrection**.

### DIG IN

#### 1. The Scene of the Resurrection.

Spend some time exploring the Scene as Matthew describes it. List the pieces of evidence (both the ordinary and the supernatural).

What can you conclude based on the Scene that Matthew describes?

#### 2. The Evidence for the Resurrection.

There are four characteristics to the evidence found at the empty tomb that prove Jesus's body was not merely removed, but that he was raised from the dead. The evidence was...

##### A. Visual.

Consider once again what Mary Magdalene and the other Mary saw. Why do you think it is important that two people saw both the angel and the empty tomb?

##### B. Verbal

Both the angel and Jesus himself give verbal evidence of Jesus' resurrection. Why is this important? What new information does the "verbal" record give that the "visual" evidence doesn't?

##### C. Visceral

The resurrection elicited visceral (emotional and physical) reactions from three groups of people: the guards (v. 4), the women (v. 8), and the chief priests (vv. 11-15). In what ways do these varied reactions *prove* that something supernatural took place?

##### D. Viral

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:4-8:** Jesus appeared to the apostles, his own half-brothers, and to more than 500 people at one time (most of whom were alive at the writing of 1 Corinthians). In what ways does this evidence support the reasons why the gospel went "viral" in the early years following Christ's resurrection?

### DO

Taking this evidence into consideration, share with the group how your faith is made stronger because of the evidence that Jesus arose like he said he would.