



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Proving the Resurrection

Matthew 28

1. This week, we continued our sermon series focusing on the resurrection of Jesus. Take a moment to read some of Matthew's account of the resurrection.

Matthew 28:1-10: After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

What are some of your thoughts and feelings as you read this Scripture?

2. We see many different eyewitness accounts of Jesus alive after He was crucified in the New Testament. All 4 Gospels include eyewitness accounts. Acts has 4 verses that specifically mention being with Jesus after his crucifixion. Acts 2:32, Acts 3:15, Acts 10:41, Acts 13:31.

Paul speaks of a massive group seeing Jesus alive after his death in **I Corinthians 15:6 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.**

Please feel free to look up the verses in Acts and then take some time to discuss these Scriptures.

Eyewitness testimony is a powerful thing. Telling the truth despite facing persecution and death is even more powerful. Can you share about a time in your life when telling the truth of something you witnessed potentially put you in harms way?

3. It's incredible to learn that there are 3 main methods used in determining ancient document's existence, accuracy, and validity.

The first is how many originals or copies of the originals we have access to.

The second is how much time is estimated to have passed from when the events took place, to when the original documents were written, to when the copies were created.

The third is where in proximity to the original location were the copies found. Perhaps, surprisingly the more copies found further from the original location brings more validity to the original.

Please discuss the vast discrepancy between many "secular" writings, like the Iliad and the Odyssey vs the New Testament.

Does knowing facts about the existence of manuscripts, fragments, full copies, locations, amounts, and time passed bring any additional confidence to your faith and belief in Jesus?

If questioned about the facts or trust worthiness of the New Testament, will you plan to use/reference any of this information?

4. At the end of Pastor Dan's sermon, he talked more about being in relationship with Jesus, dedicating our lives to Him, and experiencing Him daily in His love, faithfulness, power, and freedom. He went away from the factual and more natural support, and leaned into the more spiritual and experiential support for proof of Christ's resurrection. Can you share a personal experience when you encountered Jesus in a powerful way and perhaps put any doubts behind you.