

The Resurrection of Jesus - Part 2

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6-15-16

Review

Objections to the Resurrection (continued)

3. The Theft Theory - someone stole Jesus' body

- Who would/could have done it?
- One variation: Many sincere people *thought* they saw him & others went along for a good cause.
 - C.S. Lewis - "chronological snobbery"
 - N.T. Wright - the universal view then that a bodily resurrection was
 - Greek dualism - no spirit would want back the body
 - Jewish thought - resurrection as end of time
 - No other messianic movements claimed resurrection
 - No indication *anyone* expected him to be raised from the dead!
 - The women on Sunday to continue the burial rites (Matthew 28:1). Fled "trembling and astonished" (Mark 16:8)
 - No one believed the reports at first (Mark 16:11-13)
 - 'Doubting' Thomas (John 20:25)
 - Did not recognize Jesus (John 21)
 - Jesus chastised them for their unbelief (Luke 24:25; Mark 16:14)

4. The Myth Theory - The NT writers were mythmakers. The events are _____.

- The texts themselves do not have the literary quality of a myth (John 19:35; II Peter 1:16; John 19:4-8; Acts 2:32)
- Myth theory reduces Christianity to paganism. Not likely coming from Jews.
- No mythic symbol has ever so revolutionized the world and billions of lives.
- How can a lie be the basis for a "good" life?

The Challenge of the Resurrection

Skeptics must answer tough questions:

- Why did Christianity emerge so rapidly, with such power?
- No other band of messianic followers in that era concluded their leader was raised from the dead, so why did this group do so?
- No Jewish group ever worshipped a human being, so why did this group?
- Jews did not believe in divine men or individual resurrections, so what changes their worldview overnight?
- If Jesus was not raised from the dead, then where is his body?

- How do you account for the hundreds of eyewitnesses to the resurrection who lived on for decades and publically maintained their testimony, eventually giving up their lives for their belief? Skeptics come to the fact with a philosophical _____. No one will ever accept the facts unless they are willing to let their _____ be changed - a matter of the _____.

Apologetics is **not** about convincing people, but _____ what we believe (I Peter 3:15; Ephesians 4:15)

It is the _____ _____ job to convince, convict, and transform (John 16:8-9; I Cor. 3:6-7)

This affects our attitude/posture/approach to evangelism, etc. No longer pressure to make people believe what we believe, or to change their lives. (John 14:25-27; John 15:18-20)

Thomas Oden: "When the apostles began to try and express what had happened to them, they did not begin with a system of metaphysics or ethical injunctions or scientific data. Rather, they began with experiential testimony of an interpersonal meeting with the risen Christ that 'made all things new.'"

- John 9:25 - "...one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

Tim Keller: "If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead."