

THE RESURRECTION

The greatest event in all history was the resurrection of Jesus from the grave.

(John 20:1-18) On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!" At that, Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in. Then, following him, Simon Peter came also. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. The wrapping that had been on His head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself. The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then entered the tomb, saw, and believed. For they still did not understand the Scriptures that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went home again. But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb. She saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet, where Jesus' body had been lying. They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "Because they've taken away my Lord," she told them "and I don't know where they've put Him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus. "Woman," Jesus said to her, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Supposing He was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you've removed Him, tell me where you've put Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said, "Mary," Turning around, she said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" - which means "Teacher." "Don't cling to Me," Jesus told her, "for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and tell them that I am ascending to My Father and your Father - to My God and your God."

1. Jesus Is LIVING

- A. We dismiss Scripture as religious fable.
- B. We do not accept Scripture as being literally true.

(Luke 24:1-6) On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" asked the men. "He is not here, but He has been resurrected!"

- C. We believe the resurrection violates the laws of nature – but it doesn't.

2. Jesus Is LOVING

- A. Jesus wants to be our PERSONAL friend.

(John 17:20) "I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message [Scripture]."

(John 17:25) "Righteous Father! The world has not known You. However, I have known You, and these have known that You sent Me. I made Your name known to them and will make it known, so the love You have loved Me with may be in them and I may be in them."

- B. He thinks of Himself as our Big Brother.

(John 10:14-17) "I am the good shepherd. I know My own sheep, and they know Me,... I lay down my life for the sheep. But I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. This is why the Father loves Me, because I am laying down my life so I may take it up again."

3. Jesus Is LORD

- A. "I have seen THE LORD"
- B. "I have seen the one who RULES SUPREME over MY LIFE."