

Remnant Life Church  
Sunday, March 31, 2013  
Resurrection Sunday

“Jesus – Like No One Else”  
Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20

1. Review of the events from Friday into Sunday morning
  - The trials on Thursday night into Friday
  - Crucifixion begins at approximately 9:00 a.m.
  - Jesus surrenders His life at approximately 3:00 p.m.
    - Earthquake (Matt. 27:51)
    - Veil of the temple torn from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51)
    - Tombs break open and people rise from the dead (Matt. 27:52)
      - The incredible power of life over death
      - Why He said “Lazarus come out” (John 11:43)
2. What separates Jesus from any other historical religious leader?
  - Confucius – 551 BC – 479 BC
  - Muhammad – 570 – 632
  - Joseph Smith – 1805 - 1844
  - L Ron Hubbard – 1911 – 1986
3. Jesus was born – 3 BC
  - Jesus died – 30
  - Jesus arose 3 days later
4. Through the centuries many theories have been presented in an effort to deny the physical resurrection of Jesus
  - The disciples took His body
    - Guards were posted knowing that to fail their mission would have resulted in their deaths
    - The disciples were in hiding in fear after Jesus’ death (John 20:19)
    - They were in disarray and confused after having witnessed Jesus death
  - Jesus and His disciples planned the event as a hoax – he did not die on the cross
    - No one survived the cross

- The men who came to break the legs of the thieves saw that Jesus was dead (**John 19:32-33**)
    - The soldier drove a spear into His side (**John 19:34**)
    - Would the appearance of a half-dead, deceitful man have evoked worship?
  - The disciples made up the story of His resurrection
    - If that were so all the authorities would have had to do was show everyone His body
    - These men, all but one being martyred, would have given their lives for a lie?
5. Jesus rose just as He said He would
- The appearances
    - He appeared both to individuals and groups
    - He acted and behaved not as a hallucinogenic spirit but as a flesh and blood man (**John 21:1-13; Acts 1:4**)
    - Was seen over a period of 40 days (**Acts 1:3**)
  - The empty tomb
    - The belief of the resurrection without the empty tomb would never have been embraced by the disciples
    - The still enclosed tomb would have been all the authorities needed to quell the movement
    - The simplicity of the account through the centuries speaks to its authenticity
      - Not embellished or fancified
      - Revealed first to women (**Matt 28:5-7**)
  - The expansion of the Christian faith
    - The disciples left Golgotha believing that their movement had come to an end
    - Jesus' appearance infused them with a belief that sent them around the known world requiring that all (except John) sacrifice their lives
    - Their belief was not due to:
      - Christian influence – Christianity would not become established until after the resurrection
      - Jewish influence – the teaching was not about the resurrection of one man in the midst of history but of all righteous people at the end of time

6. Jesus, like none other before or since, lived and died as a man but rose again as God, Lord and Savior
- Why is that important to us today?
    - It is our hope and assurance of a future with Him
    - Loren Eiseley the 20<sup>th</sup> century American anthropologist and philosopher wrote that humans have made themselves into “cosmic orphans”
      - All the other creatures rely on instinct but we ask “why”?
      - And in our desire to free ourselves of the perceived restrictions of God in our lives and to elevate ourselves we have in fact lowered ourselves to the level of any other creature because without God our existence has no meaning;
        - We are then nothing more than a by-product of matter plus time plus chance – all that we have is the inevitability of death
        - A spark in the infinite darkness of time that flickers for the breath of a moment then dies leaving behind nothing but perhaps other flickering sparks

It is knowing that we are created in the image of God, against that bleak, barren, hopeless backdrop of the modern enlightened man, that we realize we are not orphans but very much the beloved child of our Heavenly Father. (John 3:16)