

# Risen

THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION

WEEK 2



LUKE 24:36-49  
JOHN 20:19-23

**No story is more central to  
the Christian faith than the  
resurrection of Jesus!**

**“If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that 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.”**

- Timothy Keller



**1. Jesus answers the doubts and disasters in our faith journey.**

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**Luke 24:36-38** CSB

As they were saying these things, he himself stood in their midst. He said to them, “Peace to you!” <sup>37</sup> But they were startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> “Why are you troubled?” he asked them. “And why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

### James 1:5-6 <sup>CSB</sup>

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith without **doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind.**

### Luke 24:39-43 <sup>CSB</sup>

**Look** at my hands and my feet, that it is **I myself! Touch me** and **see**, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.” <sup>40</sup> Having said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup> But while they still were amazed and in disbelief because of their joy, he asked them, “**Do you have anything here to eat?**” <sup>42</sup> So they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.



The Resurrection event is a historical event that demands a decision from humans. You and I cannot say it didn't happen. We can say we don't want to believe it or we don't want to engage the truth of it or we haven't examined it. But we can't say it didn't happen with any intellectual honesty. No more than we can claim man did not land on the moon, Julius Caesar didn't live, the holocaust didn't happen, Martin Luther King Jr. was a made-up figure, Napoleon was a fictional character. The death and resurrection of Jesus ought to be examined. Look, touch and see.

1. Jesus answers the doubts and disasters in our faith journey.
- 2. Jesus reorients the direction and purpose of our life and work.**

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direction and purpose  
of our life and work**

- The Resurrection anchors me to the Scriptures.

### Luke 24:44-47 <sup>CSB</sup>

He told them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he **opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.** <sup>46</sup> He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

# The 5 Big Questions of Life

1. Where did I come from?
2. Who am I?
3. Why am I here?
4. How should I live?
5. Where am I going?

**Jesus reorients the  
direction and purpose  
of our life and work**

- The Resurrection anchors me to the Scriptures.
- The Resurrection requires me to engage culture.

**Luke 24:48-49** CSB

“You are **witnesses** of these things. <sup>49</sup> And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are **empowered** from on high.”

## Four Ways to Engage Culture

1. Settle in
2. Run away
3. War against
4. Transform through faithful presence



**Jesus reorients the  
direction and purpose  
of our life and work**

- The Resurrection anchors me to the Scriptures.
- The Resurrection requires me to engage culture.
- The Resurrection allows me to rest.

**Matthew 11:28** CSB

“Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

The message of the resurrection is that this world matters! That the injustices and pains of this present world must now be addressed with the news that healing, justice, and love have won... If Easter means Jesus Christ is only raised in a spiritual sense—[then] it is only about me, and finding a new dimension in my personal spiritual life. But if Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead, Christianity becomes good news for the whole world—news which warms our hearts precisely because it isn't just about warming hearts. Easter means that in a world where injustice, violence and degradation are endemic, God is not prepared to tolerate such things and that we will work and plan, with all the energy of God, to implement victory of Jesus over them all. Take away Easter and Karl Marx was probably right to accuse Christianity of ignoring problems of the material world. Take away Easter and Freud was probably right to say Christianity is wish-fulfillment. Take away Easter and Nietzsche probably was right to say it was for wimps.

- NT Wright

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