

Why We Need the Resurrection

Jesus was crucified. He died. He was buried. And he rose again. The resurrection is THE essential doctrine of Christianity. Why? Because there is no Christianity without the resurrection.

That's right. Without the fact of Jesus rising physically from the dead, St. Benedict parish (and every other parish) would not be here. Everything we believe in our Catholic faith about life now and in the hereafter is founded on the fact of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This makes our Easter celebration the greatest celebration of the year.

But, how do we know that Jesus really rose from the dead? What proof do we have?

Here are several reasons:

One: The Empty Tomb of Jesus The tomb of Jesus was empty. There are some theories of why that was so, but all theories "limp" and "do not hold water." One theory is that someone stole the body. But who? The apostles? They were too cowardly to stand by Jesus as he was dying. They wouldn't have the courage to steal a dead body. And besides, they would not have been able to overcome the Roman guards. Besides the followers of Jesus, no one would have a motive to steal Jesus' dead body. Quite to the contrary, everyone from the Jewish authorities to the Roman procurator wanted Jesus to stay inside the tomb.

Two: Eye Witness Accounts There is Biblical documentation that presents eye witnesses to the Risen Jesus. Jesus first appeared to several women. No ancient author would have used women for witnesses to Christ's resurrection. Women were second class citizens in Bible times; their testimony was not even allowed in court. Yet, the Bible says the risen Christ first appeared to Mary Magdalene and other holy women. Then, Jesus appeared to the apostles. There are at least eight accounts of Jesus appearing to his disciples, ranging from one to five-hundred.

Three: The Apostles' New-Found Courage After the crucifixion, Jesus' apostles hid behind locked doors, terrified they would be executed next. But something changed them from cowards to bold preachers. Anyone who understands human character knows people do not change that much without some major influence. That influence was seeing their Master, bodily risen from the dead. They left that locked room to boldly preach the Risen Christ, unafraid of what would happen to them.

Four: Disciples Died for Jesus All of the apostles, except John, died a martyr's death because of their preaching that Jesus is risen from the dead. A sane human person would not die for a truth he or she was not absolutely convinced in. No one would die for a lie. And, over the centuries, literally millions have died for their faith in Jesus Christ. Many still die for Christ every year.

Five: Christianity is Growing Christianity is ranked the largest religion in the world today, and is still growing. Thousands of people are giving their lives over to Jesus Christ, their Risen Savior, every year. People's lives are changing for the better when they encounter the living Christ in their lives.

Our belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus is central to all our other beliefs.

Why do we need the Resurrection? Just look around. The world is in terror over the Covid-19 crisis. Besides the obvious health issues with Covid-19, there are financial disasters, business failures, family tension, and life is changing as we know it.

The Resurrection tells us that no matter what crisis we are going through, God is still in charge. God is Lord over all life, and He is victorious over death itself.

The Resurrection of Jesus is proof of God's love for us. It is proof that we can live a grace-filled life on earth, and will live a glory-filled life in heaven. It is proof that God never intended to lose anyone that was His. We are His. Alleluia!