

EASTER | SERMON NOTES

Pastor Rick Countryman | Selected Scriptures

John 19:38-42 (NLT)

Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away.³⁹ With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes.⁴⁰ Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth.⁴¹ The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before.⁴² And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Luke 24:1-12 (NLT)

But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.² They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.³ So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.⁴ As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.⁵ The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?"⁶ He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee,⁷ that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."⁸ Then they remembered that he had said this.⁹ So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened.¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened.¹¹ But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.¹² However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

Question #1: What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Easter) prove?

Answer #1: That Jesus is who He claimed to be, and that is God!

John 5:16-18 (NLT)

So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules.¹⁷ But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I."¹⁸ So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

John 10:30-33 (NLT)

The issue isn't whether someone claims to be God (anybody can do that), the issue is can they prove it?

Death claims 100% of the people 100% of the time... unless you're God!

Answer #2: That Jesus has the power He claimed to have!

Matthew 28:18 (NCV)

"All power in heaven and on earth is given to me."

John 10:18 (PH)

"No one takes my life from me. I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to take it up again."

Matthew 16:13-16 (NLT)

Question #2: Why does the resurrection matter?

Answer #1: Because Jesus walked out of the tomb, your sin can be forgiven!

Acts 5:30-31 (NCV)

"You killed Jesus by hanging him on a cross. But God, the God of our ancestors, raised Jesus up from the dead!³¹ Jesus is the One whom God raised to be on his right side, as Leader and Savior. Through Him, all people could change their hearts and lives and have their sins forgiven."

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

Proverbs 20:9 (NIV)

1 John 1:8-9 (NIV)

Answer #2: Because Jesus walked out of the tomb, your future can be secure!

John 11:25 (NIV)

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live even though He dies."

John 3:16-17 (NIV)
