



from
death
to *life*
cross theology
part IV

John 20:1-9

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved.

John 20:1-9

She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put Him!” Peter & the other disciple started out for the tomb. They were both running but the other disciple outran Peter & reached the tomb first.

John 20:1-9

He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed—for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.

The resurrection was first understood as a vindication of Jesus.

John 20:8-9

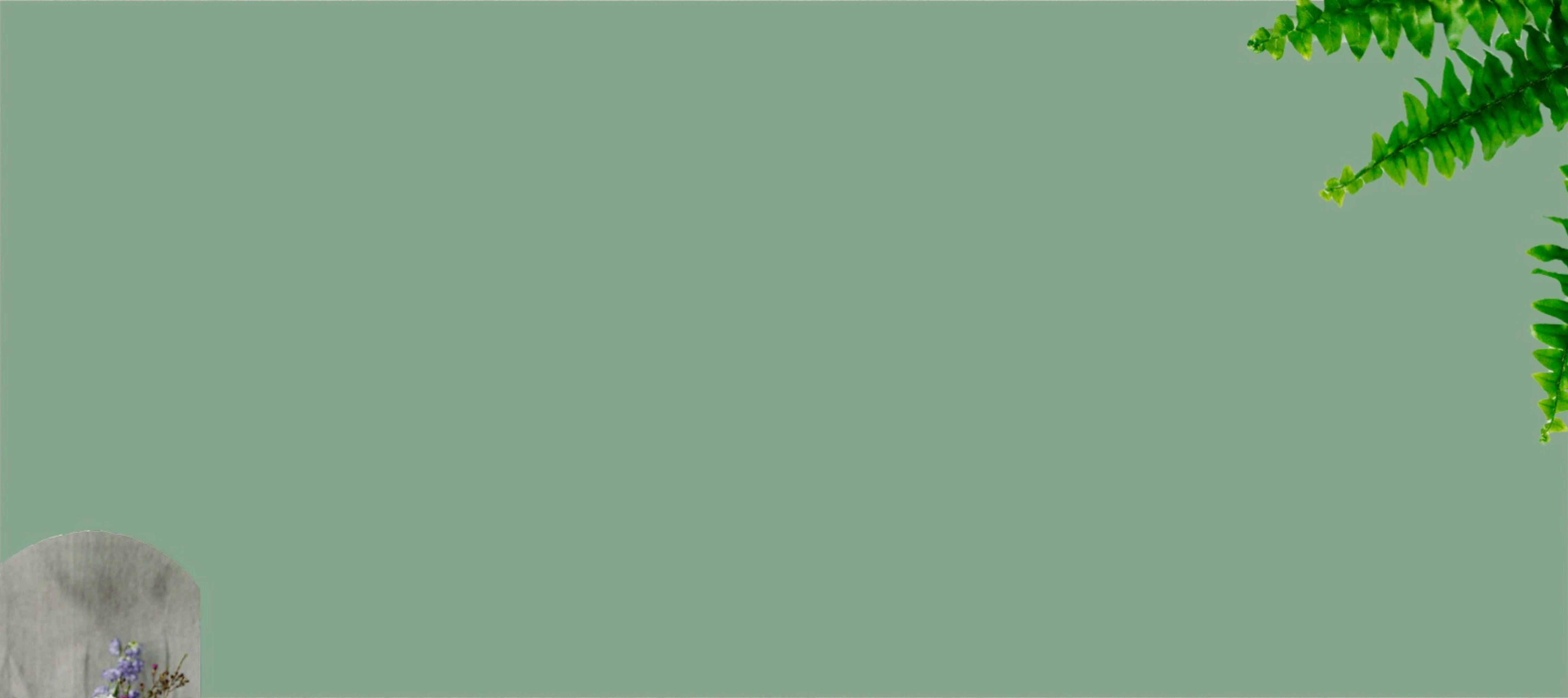
[He] went in, and he saw and believed—for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.



The resurrection cast a retrospective light backwards validating Jesus'.

- Cross
- Claims
- Place





1. The resurrection was a vindication
of Jesus' cross.

John 20:1-3



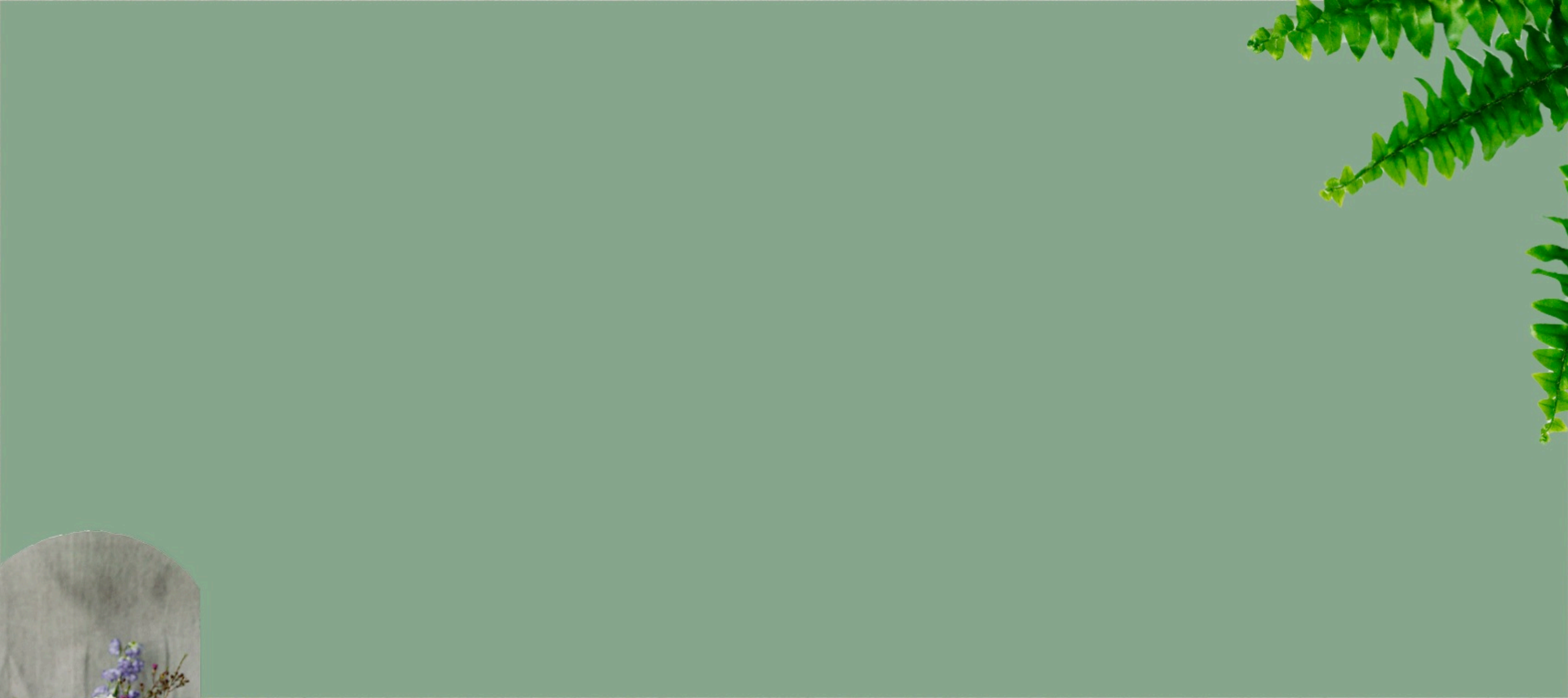
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Crucifixion was the most physically & socially shameful death:

- Public Beating
- Death by Torture
- Dehydration. Shock. Suffocation.
- Public Disgrace
- Roman Citizens Exempt
- Symbol of Roman Domination
- Spiritual Curse







The only thing more unbelievable than
a crucified Messiah was a risen one.

From curse to rescue.

Galatians 3:13

But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When He was hung on the cross, He took upon Himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”



From a sign of defeat to devotion.

Galatians 6:17

I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

From shameful to champion.

Hebrews 12:2

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus,
the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.
Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured
the cross, disregarding its shame.



He shamed them not they shamed Him!

Colossians 2:15

In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross.



A cause for boasting not humiliation.

Galatians 6:14

As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Something to be taken up not avoided!

Matthew 16:24

“If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me.”



The means to freedom not captivity.

Romans 6:6

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.



The means to new life not death.

Galatians 2:20

My old self has been crucified with Christ.
It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.



**The means to ethnic/racial peace
not Roman domination.**

Ephesians 2:14

For Christ Himself has brought peace to us.
He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when,
in His own body on the cross, He broke down
the wall of hostility that separated us.



**The means to cosmic reconciliation
not corporal punishment.**

Colossians 1:20

Through [Jesus] God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.



The means to healing not torture.

1 Peter 2:24

By His wounds you have been healed.

The definition of the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

The definition of the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:24

But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The definition of the love of God.

1 John 4:9-10

God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

The moment of Jesus' coronation.

Philippians 2:8-9

He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names...

From curse to rescue. **Gal. 3:13**

From a sign of defeat to devotion. **Gal. 6:17**

From shameful to champion. **Heb. 12:2**

He shamed them not they shamed Him! **Col. 2:15**

A cause for boasting not humiliation. **Gal. 6:14**

Something to be taken up not avoided! **Matt. 16:24**

The means to freedom not captivity. **Rom. 6:6**

The means to new life not death. **Gal. 2:20**

The means to ethnic/racial peace not Roman domination. **Eph. 2:14**

The means to cosmic reconciliation not corporal punishment. **Col. 1:20**

The means to healing not torture. **1 Pt. 2:24**

The definition of the power of God. **1 Cor. 1:18**

The definition of the wisdom of God. **1 Cor. 1:24**

The definition of the love of God. **1 Jn 4:9-10**

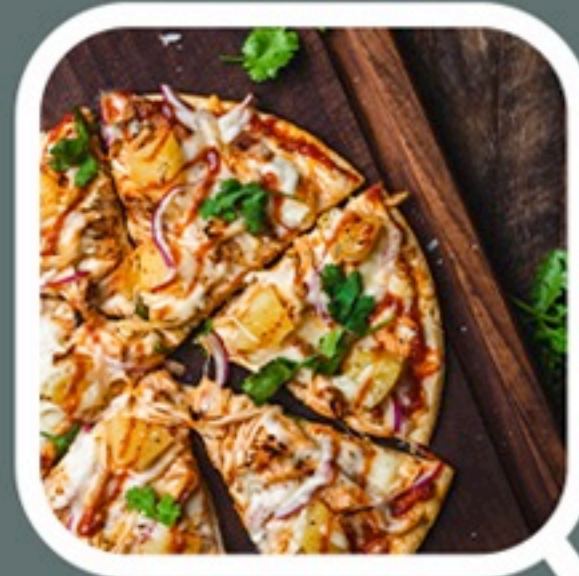
The moment of Jesus' coronation. **Phil. 2:8-9**











Pizza



Milk



Buffalo Wings



Cauliflower



Mac n Cheese



Gnocchi



Pretzel

The resurrection was a vindication of Jesus' cross.

1 Corinthians 15:17-20

If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

1. The resurrection was
a vindication of Jesus' cross.

**2. The resurrection was
a vindication of Jesus' claims.**




Them: *“Jesus said a lot of crazy things.”*


Disciples: *“But it all must be true.”*

Them: *“How do you know?”*

Disciples: *“He rose from the dead. I saw Him.”*

Them: *“Oh.”*

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- Authority to forgive sin (Mk 2:1-12)
 - Power to raise dead (Jn 5:21-29; 11:25)
 - Is “The Truth” (Jn 14:6; 8:31-32)
 - Oneness with God (Jn 10:30; 17:21-26)
 - To know/see/receive Him is to know/see/receive God (Jn 12:45; 14:7-12)
 - Authority to judge all (Jn 5:22,27; 9:39)
 - Judgment based on attitude toward Him (Jn 5:21-29)


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- Gives eternal life (Jn 10:28)
 - Eternal Preexistence (Lk 10:17-18; Jn 5:46)
 - The Divine Name (Jn 8:58)
 - Allows others to worship Him (Mt 14:33)
 - Lord of The Sabbath (Mt 12:8)
 - Bringer of New Covenant (Luke 22:20)
 - New Temple (Jn 2:19)

A confident belief in resurrection makes deconstruction healthier.

1. It gives you the comfort to explore with the assurance of salvation.
2. It imposes upon you the humility to trust Jesus over yourself.



"The four Gospels describe Jesus' female followers going to His tomb on Easter morning, only to find it empty. They receive the news that Christ has risen from the dead. Each gospel, at different points, comments on the fear that these women felt. The Gospel of Mark's account is especially striking to me. The earliest and most reliable manuscripts of Mark conclude with a description of the women as 'trembling and bewildered.' Mark tells us that they 'fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.' (Mark 16:8)."



“That the story is known at all makes it clear that Mark believes the women eventually told Jesus’ disciples what they had seen. But what do we make of the fact that Mark ends his gospel on the women’s fear and silence? Mark’s ending points to a truth that often gets lost in the celebration: Easter is a frightening prospect. For the women, the only thing more terrifying than a world with Jesus dead was one in which He was alive.”

-Esau McCaulley, NT Scholar

1. The resurrection was a vindication of Jesus' cross.
2. The resurrection was a vindication of Jesus' claims.
- 3. The resurrection was a vindication of Jesus' place.**



Mary of Magdala – John 20:15-18

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing Him to be the **gardener**, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “**Rabbouni!**” (which means **Teacher**). Jesus said to her, “...Go to My brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father...’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the **Lord.**”

The Disciples – John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for **fear** of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the **Lord**.

Thomas the Doubter – John 20:24-29

But Thomas, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe.” A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

Thomas the Doubter – John 20:24-29


Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it in My side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!”

John 20:30-31


Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that **through believing you may have life in His name.**

John 11:25-26


Jesus told her, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”



“(Jesus says to Martha,) ‘As you stand here in your desperate grief, your greatest need is not to have your brother back again. It’s to have Me.’ Believing that Jesus is the resurrection and the life is not a one-time posture of the mind. Rather, it is a daily battle of the heart. As with a kid riding a rollercoaster, all our senses scream otherwise. I’m routinely tempted to believe that something or someone else is in fact my life. I look to the things I desire to fill me up.”




“And those things, those people, can feel so real compared with this impossible God who calls me to crucify my desires and throw myself into His arms. In those moments, when I don’t believe, I recall Martha’s story. Her heart yearned for her brother. His restoration felt like life to her. But Jesus stood before her, looked into her eyes, and said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life.’ ...We often see prayer as a means to an end: God is a cosmic vending machine; insert prayer and expect results to drop into your hand—or kick the machine in anger when they don’t.”



“But the story of Lazarus upends this idea. Jesus is not a means to an end, a mechanism through which Martha can change her circumstances. He is the end.”

-Rebecca McCloughlin,
Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for
the World's Largest Religion



"Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing."

-C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

If Jesus is alive:
His cross is victory.
His claims are true.
His place is first.



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER



And all the Saints pray together:

We believe in life after death.

We believe in life after life after death.

We believe in life before death.

He is risen. We are risen.

He is coming. We will rise.

He gave his life. We give our lives.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.