

Why We Emphasize His Resurrection

Text : **Luke 23: 50 – 24:12**

A. Easter was the first holiday associated with the practice of Christianity.

**S#1.
S#2.**

1. No “Christian” holidays are authorized in scripture ... only the Lord’s Day.
2. “Christian” holidays were adopted to distract Christians from pagan holidays.
3. Everyone likes a good party so Christians were joining in with pagan celebrations.

B. Jesus died/rose at the time of the Passover, but the date of the Passover changes.

1. Jews use a lunar calendar which must add a month from time to time.
2. The Counsel of Nicea in 325 A.D. set the date for celebrating Easter.
3. The first Sunday following the full moon after the March equinox.

Equinox : the time or date (twice each year) at which the sun crosses the celestial equator, when day and night are of equal length (about September 22 and March 20).

C. The feast to the pagan goddess Eostre was reckoned similarly.

S#3.

1. She was the goddess of fertility. (*dating back to 3500 BC in all Mesopotamia*)
2. The feast was too culturally entrenched to be eliminated so it was “Christianized.”
 - a. It was a Spring festival celebrating the resurrection of nature after the winter.
 - b. Used the pagan symbols of rebirth and fertility ... eggs, rabbits, etc.

D. At Easter we celebrate the resurrection which is a true historical event.

1. Historically Jesus arose in the Spring at the time of the Passover.
2. We commemorate the event on the first day of every week.

S#4.

Easter is the most widely observed holiday associated with the Christian religion because it pays tribute to the most significant even in history.

With this lesson we will alliterate five questions about Christ’s resurrection.

S#5.

1. The Person
2. The Purpose
3. The Proof
4. The Present Possession
5. The Prospect

I. Who is the person of the resurrection ?**S#6.****A. Jesus the risen Christ is both the creator and the firstborn of all creation. S#7.**

1. He is the most preeminent one in the history of the world.

Col. 1: 15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **S#8.**

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.

2. Jesus is also the firstborn from the dead.

Col 1:17-18 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **S#9.**

18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

B. Within the person of Jesus dwelt the fullness of the Godhead. S#10.

1. **Col 1:19-20** For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell **S#11.**

in Him, **20** and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in Heaven.

2. **Heb. 1: 2-3** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed **#12.** heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. **3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

C. He proved Himself to be the Son of God on the earth by the works that did. #13.

1. His character was of one who did good for others.

Acts 10: 38 – You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the **S#14.** Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

2. Jesus demonstrated His deity by giving life to others.

a. Luke 7: 11-15 ... He raised the only son of the widow from Nain.

b. Luke 8: 41-55 ... He raised the daughter of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue.

c. John 11 ... He raised His friend Lazarus after four days.

D. After His miraculous birth as the son of a virgin Jesus lived without sin. S#15.

Heb. 4: 15 – For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things **S#16.** as we are, yet without sin.

S#17.

This Jesus is the one proven to be the Son of God when He was raised from the death.

II. What is the purpose of the resurrection?

S#18.

A. All mankind was lost in sin, spiritually dead, separated from God.

S#19.

1. **Rom. 3: 10, 23** as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; ... 22 for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
2. **Eph. 2: 1-2** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, ...
3. **Eph 2: 12** – remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

S#20.

B. Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

S#21.

1. **Mark 10: 45** – For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.
2. **I Pet. 2: 24** – He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

3. *How do we know that the death of Jesus propitiated our sins ?*

S#22.

C. The resurrection proved that Jesus could forgive man's sins.

1. John the baptizer said to Jesus the Lamb of God which was to take away sin.
John 1: 29 – The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
2. If He had stayed in the tomb how would we have known for sure ?
3. We know that Jesus has the power to do what He promised by the resurrection.
Rom. 1: 4 – who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,
4. We know that Jesus justified us because he did not stay in the tomb.
Rom. 4: 25 – He who was delivered over for our transgressions, and was raised for our justification.

S#23.

D. We don't go to a tomb to pay homage to a dead Savior or a dead prophet. S#24.

1. The Muslim prophet, Mohammad, is buried in Medina in Saudi Arabia.
2. Confucius, the founder of Confucianism, is in Qufu, in Shandong province of China.
3. The body of Buddha was cremated and divided into many "stupas" India / Sri Lanka

The empty tomb proves that we serve a living Savior who rules and reigns from the right hand of God in Heaven.

S#25.

III. Is there any proof of the resurrection?**S#26.****A. We know that Jesus died and was buried. (Historical fact)****S#27.**

1. The Roman executioners made sure Jesus was dead.

John 19: 33-34 but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. **34** But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. **S#28.**

2. Joseph of Arimathea requested the body of Jesus and buried it. (*not like criminal*)

Luke 23: 53 – And he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain.

3. The Jews did their best to make sure Jesus stayed in the grave.

Matt. 27: 65-66 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." **66** And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

B. His tomb was empty when the women came to anoint the body.**S#29.**

1. **Mark 16: 2-3** Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. **3** They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" **S#30.**

2. **Luke 24: 2-3** And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

3. The angels told the women that Jesus was risen from the dead.

Luke 24: 4-5 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly **#31.** stood near them in dazzling clothing; **5** and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead?"

C. He was seen by many witnesses.**S#32.**

I Cor. 15: 4-6 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

D. Credible witnesses touched Him and examined his wounds after His resurrection

1. **John 20: 27-28** Then He said to Thomas, " Reach here with your finger, **S#33.** and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." **28** Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

2. **I John 1: 1**– What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands.

There is reliable testimony that establishes the truth and verity of the resurrection. **S#34.**

IV. What is the present possession of the resurrection?

S#35.

S#36.

A. Because Jesus has risen from the dead, we have full assurance of salvation.

1. Because Jesus ascended to the right hand of God, He keeps us saved.

I John 5: 13 – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

2. Baptism identifies us with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

S#37.

I Pet. 3: 21 – Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you — not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

3. Only those who believe in the resurrection can have assurance.

Rom. 10: 9 – the word of faith which we are preaching, **9** that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

B. Because He is risen we can live this life without fear.

S#38.

1. We have a great high priest who keeps us saved every day.

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; **2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

S#39.

2. If we are struck dead, we will arise with a new and glorious body like Jesus.

II Cor. 5: 1-2 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

S#40.

V. What are the future prospects of the resurrection.

S#41.

A. Because of His resurrection Christians live in anticipation of the resurrection.

1. **I Pet. 1: 3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in Heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

S#42.

2. **I John 3: 2** – Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

S#43.

B. We live in anticipation of immortality.

1. Eternal life and immortality are supposed to be part of our preaching. S#44.
I Tim. 1: 10 – but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior
 Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality
 to light through the gospel, (*This is part of the gospel message*)
2. We may die once, but we will never die again ... we will be raised immortal.
I Cor. 15: 50-53 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot S#45.
 inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the
 imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep,
 but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an
 eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead
 will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this
 perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must
 put on immortality.

CONCLUSION :

A. Why do we emphasize the resurrection of Jesus, it is the cornerstone of our faith. S#46.

1. The resurrection sets Jesus aside from everyone ever born.
2. The resurrection proves Jesus is God.
3. The resurrection is a historically provable fact. 500 witnesses at one time.
4. The resurrection gives us security and provides a great High Priest.
5. The resurrection reassures us of the anticipation we have of Heaven.

B. Jesus died and rose for a purpose ... He offered Himself to save you. S#47.

1. **John 5** ... All will be resurrected, but not all will go to be with God.
2. Only those who put their faith in the resurrection will dwell with God eternally.
Rom. 10: 9 – the word of faith which we are preaching, ⁹ that if you confess S#48.
with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that
 God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

INVITATION : We urge you to put your faith in Jesus Christ the risen Savior. S#49.

S#50. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Luke 23: 50 – 24:12**

50 And a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man **51** (he had not consented to their plan and action), a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for the kingdom of God; **52** this man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. **53** And he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain. **54** It was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. **55** Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. **56** Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes.

And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

24 1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. **2** And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; **5** and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? **6** "He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, **7** saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." **8** And they remembered His words, **9** and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. **10** Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. **11** But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. **12** But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.