

A SKEPTIC BELIEVES

Warm-Up Question:

Describe a time in your life when you experienced some skepticism or doubt, even if you're going through that now.

READ: John 20:24-31

I. A SKEPTIC BELIEVES: THE EVIDENCE

- ▶ Discuss the reality of each of these evidences of the resurrection of Jesus. Which is most compelling to you?
 - ▶ Post Resurrection Appearances: Jesus appears to more than 500 people
 - ▶ Disciples Transformation: All of them were willing to die for testifying that Jesus was alive, and most of them did.
 - ▶ Spread of Christianity: Only religion that spread throughout world

II. A SKEPTIC BELIEVES: THE LOVE

- ▶ What does the sole purpose of Jesus seem to be in going into that locked room that day? What does it say about Jesus's heart for skeptics and doubters?
- ▶ The fact of Jesus being alive with wounds might have helped Thomas believe, but what was it about how Jesus pursued Thomas might have won his heart?
- ▶ Read Galatians 2:20. How does the last part of the verse motivate us to do the first part of the verse?

III. A SKEPTIC BELIEVES: THE IMPLICATIONS

- ▶ Read 1 Cor. 15:14-19. What are some of implications if Christ didn't rise?
- ▶ How does the resurrection of Christ 1) motivate us to selfless love for others, and 2) live without being crushed by the brokenness of this life?

Death and resurrection are what the story is about and had we but eyes to see it, this has been hinted on every page, met us, in some disguise, at every turn, and even been muttered in conversations between such minor characters (if they are minor characters) as the vegetables.

The New Testament writers speak as if Christ's achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the 'first fruits,' the pioneer of life,' He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so.

- C. S. Lewis

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

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