

Selected Resurrection Texts:

"Meet the Living Jesus!"

Preacher on Easter Sunday > Does NOT have ELEMENT of SURPRISE in Favor
Not like Paul's Audience in Athens > SHOCKED when Learned of Resurrection

STORY does NOT CHANGE > NEED for Story GROWS EACH YEAR
March EVER CLOSER to FINAL DAY > Own APPOINTMENT with DESTINY

"It's not that I am afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens...
Death is absolutely stupefying in its terror, and it renders anyone's
accomplishments meaningless." Woody Allen

Luther > Read of Suffering & Death of X w/out thinking of Resurrection
Thus > Rediscover the HOPELESSNESS & HELPLESSNESS of 1st Disciples

"We shall never be able to appreciate the joy of the resurrection until we have
experienced the anguish and despair of the first disciples as they saw Christ suffer
and die before their eyes." Alister McGrath

BRIEF LOOK at 4 Helpless & Hopeless DISCIPLES
Gave UP All to Follow Christ > ENTRUSTED all their Life to Him > ALL LOST!
Easy to JUDGE THEM > Wonder would we be ANY DIFFERENT > Devastated?

1. The Certainty of the Resurrection / 2. The Confidence of the Resurrection
3. The Comfort of the Resurrection / 4. The Calling of the Resurrection

1. The Certainty of the Resurrection: Thomas

a. Dedication

HOSTILITY Against Jesus growing in JERUSALEM > Intentionally Stayed Away
Death of DEAR Friend > Lazarus > Compelled Jesus to Bethany > 3 kms from Jer

GOD'S PURPOSE will be FULFILLED thru Lazarus' Death:

Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that
God's Son may be glorified through it." John 11.4

THOMAS > Unique Perception of Situation > Fearless Participation

Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, *that we
may die with him.*" John 11.16

NOT DOUBTING Thomas > DEDICATED Thomas > Willing to DIE w/ Jesus

Convinced Jesus WOULD DIE, READY TO FOLLOW
Only PARTLY CORRECT > Understood DEATH but NOT RESURRECTION

b. Desperation Things NOT HAPPENING like T. EXPECTED > REJECTED

NO DOUBT > Jesus had Died > SERIOUS DOUBTS > Jesus was Risen
Jesus could be a MARTYR but not a MESSIAH > Hope Buried with Him

EASTER EVENING > Thomas...was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "*Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.*" John 20.24,25

Thomas HEARS Unbelievable News > Wants to BELIEVE > But CANNOT
Still > HEART Cried Out for Proof > 'Please CONVINCe Me!'
Child who tells Parent > 'I wish you were DEAD' > to Test their Love for Them

c. Declaration Jesus Graciously answers Thomas' Heart Cry

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "*Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.*" John 20.26,27

Jesus REPEATS Thomas' EXACT Demand: STOP DOUBTING & BELIEVE

Thomas is CONVINCED > NO NEED FOR TOUCH > Very Words Sufficient
Having HEARD such mocking words, Jesus still COMES & LOVES

Thomas Confesses / PROFOUND THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT
Thomas said to him, "My Lord and My God" John 20.28

Jesus = God > THESIS of Gospel of John > 1.1 "Word was God"
Thomas > Hard man to Convince > CLIMACTIC CONCLUSION

"The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Gibraltar of Christian evidences, the Waterloo of infidelity"
Reuben A. Torrey

2. The Confidence of the Resurrection: Cleopas and ?

Easter AFTERNOON > 2 Despondent Disciples > Aimlessly Walking

a. False Interpretation > Like Thomas, they were HALF RIGHT

“Jesus of Nazareth, He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; *but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel*. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.”
 Luke 24.19-21

Devout JEWS > Knew the SCRIPTURES > Improper Interpretation
 Recognized Jesus as PROPHET, longed for REDEEMER OF ISRAEL

PROPHETS spoke of Messiah’s DEATH AND RESURRECTION

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to *believe all that the prophets have spoken!* Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”
 Luke 24.25,26

b. Faulty Observation > Prophet and Redeemer of Israel in FRONT OF THEM

Many times Christians are LAST ONES to Know what is GOING ON in World Yet > Condemn FILMS we Never Watch, BOOKS we Never READ

As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; *but they were kept from recognizing him.*”
 Luke 24.15,16

Pontius Pilate > ‘What is Truth?’ > TRUTH Stood Right in FRONT of him

REPORT was HEARD > BUT REJECTED it was Impossible > WOMEN!!

Some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.
 Luke 24.22,23

c. Fearless Transformation Jesus SHOWS what they SHOULD HAVE Known

Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in *all the Scriptures concerning himself.*
 Luke 24.27

BIBLE > Sword of the Holy Spirit > CONVICTS and CONVINCES

Consequently, *faith comes from hearing the message*, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10.17

WEAK in FAITH? Very Likely CARELESS in Reading and Studying God's Word

Gracious Savior > Easter Afternoon > Bible School for Bumbleheaded Believers

HE would not stay with them FOREVER > Disappeared > Saw NAIL PRINTS?
BUT HIS WORD Remains FOREVER > Outlast HEAVEN AND EARTH

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and *opened the Scriptures* to us?" Luke 24.32

RISEN JESUS > Bible Teacher > Fulfills the Word and Opens the Word

Then he opened their minds so they could *understand the Scriptures*. Luke 24.45

FEARLESS? > No Longer SCARED of the DARK
Before Eyes Opened > Plead with Jesus to Stay in Safety of Traveler's Inn

After Understood Him and His Word > "They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together" Luke 24.33

Safe with God and His People > Even at Night > He'll LEAVE Light ON For US

Final Sermon of Martin Luther King, Jr. > 3 April 1968 > Assassinated Next Day

"We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that just now. I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." Martin Luther King, Jr.

3. The Comfort of the Resurrection: Mary

a. Despised 1st Cent. Roman World > Long before Equal Rights Movement

Woman's Opinion NO LEGAL VALUE > Could NOT TESTIFY in COURT
Cleopas on Emmaus Road "some of our women amazed us" Luke 24.22

USA Woman NO LEGAL RIGHTS > Terry Schiavo > Court ORDERED Death
END her Supposed PAIN by STARVATION and DEHYDRATION

IF Gospel was HUMAN INVENTION > Invented by STUPID PERSON
Testimony > DEPENDS SUBSTANTIALLY UPON WOMEN > Not Trusted

Even GOOD WOMEN were Not Trusted > Some Women were NOT GOOD
Mary Magdalene > Pharisee called her SINNER > Seven Demons INSIDE

b. Devoted > FORGIVEN MUCH thus she LOVED MUCH

Mary's other "LOVERS" had USED HER, then DUMPED HER
Jesus LOVE CARED ONLY FOR HER NEEDS - Nothing for Himself

"wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and
poured perfume on them." Luke 7.37,38

Women VITAL ROLE / MINISTRY of Jesus > FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS
Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good
news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women
who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from
whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of
Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were *helping to
support them out of their own means.* Luke 8.1-3

Women PAID THE BILL for Jesus Earthly Ministry!

GOSPEL says MEN DISCIPLES Ran Away before CROSS > NOT WOMEN!
A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and
waited for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not
weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children." Luke 23.27,28

DEATH did NOT END their Sacrifice and Devotion

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment. On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. Luke 23.55-24.1

c. Determined Came to give FINAL ANNOINTING / DEAD BODY of Jesus

Extreme Grief / Shock / Sudden Death / AMPLIFIED BY STOLEN BODY
"stood outside the tomb crying" John 20.11

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" John 20.13-17

Jesus Comforts > UNMISTAKABLE VOICE / Loving Concern
"Rabboni" Warmth, Respect // "Uncle"

Same Friend > But NOT SAME FAMILIARITY - Humble Teacher / Risen Lord
One God and Father / DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS

New DETERMINATION > Healed Witness - v. 17 "Go tell my brothers"

IMMEDIATE, ENTHUSIASTIC, OBEDIENCE

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20.18

"The resurrection of Christ offers us the most powerful reminder and reassurance that we may trust God, even when everything around us is collapsing and we are unable to discern God's presence anywhere." Alister McGrath

4. The Calling of the Resurrection: Peter

a. Rejection > Sometimes Peter opened his Mouth, only to Change Feet

SET HIMSELF UP > For Big TROUBLE with PROUD CLAIM

Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.” “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.” But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, *I will never disown you.*” Mark 14.29-31

NEVER SAY NEVER - WE OFTEN DO What we Say we would NEVER DO!

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said. But he denied it. “*I don't know or understand what you're talking about,*” he said, and went out into the entryway. When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” *Again he denied it.* After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, “*I don't know this man you're talking about.*” Mark 14.66-71

b. Remorse > Did what he SWORE he'd NEVER DO > Threw Away Master

Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then *Peter remembered the word* Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And *he broke down and wept.* Mark 14.72

NO OPPORTUNITY for Apology > Friendship TORN RAGGED FOREVER
Peter DOUBLE TRAGEDY - Death of Jesus AND his own denial of HIM

c. Restoration

Angel's Said on Easter Morning > “Don't be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples *and Peter*” Mark 16.6,7

Rose to RECONCILE // NOT REVENGE > Restore to Salvation and Service

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “*Feed my lambs.*” Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “*Take care of my sheep.*” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “*Feed my sheep.*” John 21.15-17

"Simon, DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE (Fishing? Former Life?)

Feed my Lambs > Take Care of my Sheep > Feed my Sheep > 3 Fold Restoration
50 Days Later > Man could Not Confess Jesus to SERVANT GIRL > Changed

Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:
“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ...“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. *But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*” Acts 2.14,22-24

RESURRECTION > Witness of Scriptures > History > Christian Church
BEST PROOF - CHANGED LIVES

"He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today...You ask me how I know He lives?
HE LIVES WITHIN MY HEART."

4 People > Different Needs / Problems / Personalities
Problems Solved / Questions Answered – by the RISEN JESUS

1. The Certainty of the Resurrection – *Savior is Lord and God*
2. The Confidence of the Resurrection – *Scripture is the Word of God*
3. The Comfort of the Resurrection – *Salvation is to Know God*
4. The Calling of the Resurrection – *Service expresses our Love for God*

1899 > 2 Famous Americans Died > Robert Ingersoll and Dwight Moody

“In the year 1899 two famous men died in America. One was an unbeliever who had made a career of attacking the Bible and arguing against Christian doctrines. The other was a Christian. The unbeliever was Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll, after whom the famous Ingersoll lectures on immortality at Harvard University are named. He died suddenly, his death coming as a terrible shock to this family. The body was kept in the home for several days because Ingersoll’s wife could not bear to part with it; it was finally removed because the corpse was decaying and the health of the family required it. After some time the corpse was cremated, and the display at the crematorium was so dismal that some of the scene was even picked up by the newspapers and communicated to the nation at large. Ingersoll had used his great intellect to deny the resurrection, but when death came there was no hope. His relatives and friends received his departure as an uncompensated tragedy.

In the same year the great evangelist Dwight L. Moody died, but his death was a triumph for himself and his family. Moody had been declining for some time, and the family had taken turns being with him. On the morning of his death, his son, who was standing by the bedside, heard him exclaim, “Earth is receding; heaven is opening; God is calling.” “You are dreaming, Father,” the son said. Moody answered, “No, Will, this is no dream. I have been within the gates. I have seen the children’s faces.” For a while it seemed as if Moody were reviving, but he began to slip away again. He said, “Is this death? This is not bad; there is no valley. This is bliss. This is glorious.” By this time his daughter was present and she began to pray for his recovery. He said, “No, no, Emma, don’t pray for that. God is calling. This is my coronation day. I have been looking forward to it.” Shortly after that Moody was received into heaven. At the funeral the family and friends joined in a joyful service. They spoke. They sang hymns. They heard the words proclaimed: “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?...Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15.55-57).

I do not mean to imply that the death of every Christian is equally glorious. Not all feel the force of these doctrines at their home going. But many do. Death can be victorious for a Christian. There is no hope apart from our Lord’s resurrection.”

James M. Boice