

Easter: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Easter is finally here, Alleluia! The day Christians around the world celebrate what is humanly impossible: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Matthew's account of the resurrection records the fear and doubts experienced by Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, and the disciples when they first encounter the risen Lord and Savior. By studying Matthew's gospel we see the power of honest, unembellished testimony and we learn that it's okay for followers of Jesus to experience doubts and questions in their faith. Matthew's account of how the disciples respond to Christ's resurrection and the events that followed reminds us that worship and community are important tools the Holy Spirit uses to help us overcome our doubts and encourage our faith.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What is a "testimony"? What does it mean to witness?
- Have you ever had doubts about what you believe? How has it affected your faith?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Easter: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ](#)

READ [Matthew 28](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- What convinces you that Jesus Christ has risen, that the tomb is empty, and that he has conquered death?
- In segment 2, host Scott Hoezee makes a distinction between defending the Christian faith and proving the Christian faith. Why do you think this distinction is valuable and important? What do you think of the Watergate scandal example he shares to help us understand the disciples' depth of conviction regarding Christ's death and resurrection?
- Both Scott and host Dave Bast point to Matthew's descriptions of the disciples' post-resurrection encounters with Jesus to affirm that faith and doubt can coexist within us. Have you experienced the coexistence of faith and doubt in your life? How and why is this coexistence different than hypocrisy?
- As they close the episode, Scott and Dave discuss the importance of the "encouraging witness of the community" for buttressing our faith when we experience times or seasons of difficulty and doubt. When has your community supported your faith in the midst of doubt? Describe the experience and what it means to you. What elements of the corporate worship service help us express our faith as a community?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Mark 16](#), [Luke 24:1-49](#), [John 20:1-29](#), [2 Peter 1:16](#), [Acts 2:22-24](#), [Luke 16:19-31](#), [Acts 1:1-3](#), [Colossians 2:13-15](#)

CONCLUSION

Think about things you have witnessed and experienced that bolstered your faith. What has God done in your life that prompts you to worship even when you have doubts or questions? How are you following your resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ, and living out your Easter faith?

Write your testimony in a journal or challenge yourself to find an opportunity to share it as an encouragement to other believers.

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Printed on November 21, 2024