



He Is Risen

Date: Sunday 12th April

Speaker: Andrew & Rosie McNeil

Key Verses: Matthew 28:1-10, 1 Corinthians 15:5-8

Talk Summary:

“If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.” - Tim Keller

➤ The story and evidence of the resurrection

1. The Eyewitness accounts (v 1)
 - The women were the first of many eyewitnesses. Fabricated accounts would have given this role to men to add credibility.
 - Jesus appeared to hundreds of people over 40 days.
 - Luke records that Jesus Presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. (Acts 1:3)
2. The Empty Tomb (v 4)
 - The location of the tomb was well known
 - Both Jewish and Roman historians testify to an empty tomb.
 - The very place where he was crucified is where the Christian faith exploded in growth.
 - The authorities never produced the body.
 - If the apostles stole the body, why? – They gained nothing from it, in fact the complete opposite.
3. The Fulfilment of Prophecy (v 6)
 - Jesus predicted his own death and resurrection (John 2:19, John 10:17 and more)
 - Jesus resurrection vindicates his claims. It vindicates that all his words are true and can be trusted.
4. The evidence of changed lives (v 8)
 - The women arrived in grief and left with joy.
 - The disciples went from hiding in fear to boldly proclaiming the gospel.

- The resurrection changed the lives of those early followers
 - Over two billion who follow Jesus today claim that their lives have been changed by the living Jesus.
 - So many have embarked on researching to disproving the resurrection and have ended believing.
5. The worship of Jesus as God v 9
- For a Jew - It was absolute blasphemy to propose that any human should be worshipped.
 - Yet hundreds of Jews began worshipping Jesus literally overnight.

➤ **What difference does the resurrection make?**

1. Freedom from fear
2. Comfort in trials
3. Hope
4. Power to change
5. Friendship with God

➤ **What is our response to the resurrection?**

- Choose to become his friend now?
- Examine the evidence further?
- Share the hope you have with others?

Group discussion:

Worship

- Why not start your time together with one of the centring prayer exercises you received this week?
 - Go to bvc.so/sgresources and click on "Prayer Resources" folder.

Word

1. Do you find it easy to believe in the literal physical resurrection of Jesus? Why/why not?
2. Out of the 5 differences that the resurrection makes, which one do you need most at this time? Why?
3. In what ways have you sensed the presence of the living Jesus this week? What has he been doing in you at this time?

Witness

- Who did you invite to watch the Easter service? How did it go?
- Andrew and Rosie shared the story of someone who was praying for and encouraging the people in her contacts. Which one person who doesn't know Jesus yet could you send an encouraging text to this week?