March 22/23, 2008

Study Questions
Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?
Life After Death Series
Luke 24:1-12
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Were you ever a skeptic regarding the resurrection of Jesus? What changed your mind?

2. Is the doubt and skepticism today concerning the resurrection of Jesus driven by historical and scientific evidence or something else? Explain.

3. What are the necessary ramifications if one concludes that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead?

Bible Study

1. Read Luke 24:1-12. Is Luke claiming a physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus?

2. What do you know about the details of the resurrection that would cause you to believe it really happened? In other words, together as a group make your case for the skeptic. In what way is the reliability of the document strengthened by having women as witnesses to the resurrection? In what way are the historical documents (the Gospels) made more credible by the fact that each records the details of the resurrection from differing viewpoints?

3. I Corinthians 15:3,4 is believed to be the earliest Christian creed dating as early as two years after the resurrection of Jesus. What does this tell us about their belief in the historical facts of Jesus death, burial and resurrection? How does this rule out any thought that the resurrection of Jesus grew out of legend rather than historical fact?

4. Notice Peter's words recorded in Acts 2:23-32. He acknowledges they were all eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Jesus just 40 days after the event. Acts 2:41 says that 3,000 people heard that message and believed. What is the likelihood, given these facts, that Jesus did not physically rise from the dead?

5. How can one explain the birth of the church in such dramatic fashion 40 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the radical change in the disciples'

behavior, the disciples' willingness to die for what they believed and the radical change in Jerusalem from Judaism to Christianity if Jesus did not rise from the dead?

6. What historical or literary evidence is there that would cause one to doubt or dismiss the reliability of the historical documents (the Gospels) that clearly record the resurrection of Jesus? Is the burden of proof regarding the resurrection of Jesus on Christians or the skeptics, given the body of evidence?

Application

1. Is the rejection of the resurrection of Jesus primarily an intellectual problem or a spiritual problem? How does this inform our response with those who deny the resurrection of Jesus?

2. What does the resurrection mean to you? In what way does the truth of the resurrection give you hope in the circumstances you face today?

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