

the road to the cross

Week 7 – Resurrection

mark 14-16

1. If a random stranger came and told you that someone who had been dead a few days had just come back to life, what would you think? What if a close friend told you this? What would it take for you to be convinced that it was true?

As we conclude our series of looking at Jesus' final days on earth, we have seen that Jesus has had a very difficult week. People have criticised his actions and he has been betrayed and abandoned by some of his friends. On top of this, people have made false claims which led to his arrest, and then being sentenced to die by crucifixion. Last week we saw Jesus die a horrible death upon the cross...

Read Mark 15:42-16:8

2. What do you notice about the Christians of the early church as you read these verses?
3. Throughout history, many people have attempted to 'explain' that Jesus did not really rise from the dead. Using the passage, how would you answer the following objections:
 - a. Jesus never actually died
 - b. The women simply went to the wrong tomb
 - c. Someone stole the body
4. If Jesus really did rise from the dead, what do we learn about him from this event?

5. Why do you think it is important that Jesus' resurrection was a bodily resurrection?

6. What significance does the resurrection play in the Christian faith?

7. What are the consequences of this for us as we live out our faith day-to day?

REFLECTIONS

8. Thinking back over the series as a whole, in what ways have you been challenged:
 - a. To understand the story of Jesus' death and resurrection at a deeper level?

 - b. To reconsider the way in which you relate to Jesus?

 - c. To evaluate how you live in response to what Jesus has done for us?

Pray as a group, spending some time thanking God for sending Jesus to die for our sake. Pray that we would be challenged by the impact that his death and resurrection should have on our relationship with him. Ask for his help in the areas which we still need to change in response to what he has done.