

## FUTILE Preaching and EMPTY Faith ~ Acts 4:9-13

→ Scripture Reading Acts 2:22–24. 4:9-10 1 Cor. 14:14

### INTRODUCTION

**1 Corinthians 15:14** (NET) And if Christ has NOT been raised, then our preaching is FUTILE and your faith is EMPTY.

...IF Christ did not rise from the dead, Christianity is an interesting museum piece nothing more. ...The martyrs who went singing to the lions, and contemporary missionaries who have given their lives while taking this Message to others have been poor deluded fools. pLittle

### CONVINCING Proofs ~ Acts 1:1-3

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus BEGAN to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many Convincing proofs that He was Alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God.

#### What Convincing Proofs?

- Walk and Talk on Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35
- Physically Touched Jesus Jn 20:26-28
- Ate Food Luke 24:36-42
- Seen by 500 people at the same time 1 Cor. 15:6
- Appeared to many over a period of 40 days Acts 1:3

### Reasons we BELIEVE in the Resurrection

#### 1- The EMPTY Tomb

**Matthew 28:11-15** (NIV) While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup> telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' <sup>14</sup> If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." <sup>15</sup> So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed...

#### 2- The BOLDNESS of the Disciples

**John 20:19** (NIV) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for FEAR of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

**Acts 4:9–13** (NIV) <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom YOU crucified BUT whom God RAISED from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> He is the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. <sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in NO ONE else, for there is no other Name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. <sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

### 3- Many Resurrection APPEARANCES

**1 Corinthians 15:3–8** (NIV) <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ DIED for our sins According to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that He was BURIED, that He was RAISED on the third day According to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and LAST of all He appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

### 4- CONVERSION of Skeptics and Violent Opponents

**Acts 2:22–24, 40-41, 46-47** (NIV) <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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...

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

<sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

<sup>46</sup> ...They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

→ Conversions in Jerusalem were Based on the FACT of the Resurrection

→ Conversion of Saul whose GOAL was to Destroy ALL Christians

→ Conversions of Millions through history including Skeptics attacking it

If a man can predict His own death and resurrection, and pull it off, I just go with whatever that man says. AStanley

### RESPONDING to the Resurrection ~ John 11:25-26

**John 11:25–26** (NIV) <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

**Lee Strobel** ~ I didn't become a Christian because God promised I would have an even happier life than I had as an atheist. He never promised any such thing. Indeed, following Him would inevitably bring divine demotions in the eyes of the world. Rather, I became a Christian because the evidence was so compelling that Jesus really is the one-and-only Son of God who proved his divinity by rising from the dead. That meant following him was the most rational and logical step I could possibly take.

### Take Away ??