

## DID JESUS CHRIST RISE FROM THE DEAD?

JOIN US MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>, THURSDAY AT 7:00 PM  
WINEBRENNER HALL, ROOM 121  
HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY, BROWNWOOD, TX  
FREE SNACKS AND ADMISSION  
Q&A AFTERWARDS

WE WILL EXAMINE AND APPLY THE MINIMAL FACTS APPROACH:

- WAS THE TOMB OCCUPIED?
  - WAS JESUS BURIED IN AN UNKNOWN TOMB OR THE WRONG TOMB?
  - WAS THE RESURRECTION STORY JUST A LEGEND?
  - DID PEOPLE HALLUCINATE THE RISEN JESUS?
  - WAS THE RESURRECTION EXISTENTIAL OR SPIRITUAL?
- WAS THE TOMB EMPTY?
  - WAS THE BODY STOLEN?
  - DID JESUS MERELY PASS OUT ON THE CROSS?
  - WAS IT A CONTRIVED PASSOVER PLOT?

# A Minimal Facts Approach

## Student Handout

### ABSTRACT

This is a lesson developed by the author along with material from Dr. Craig Hazen and Dr. Sean McDowell of Biola University.

**Dan Britton**

Introduction to Apologetics

**LESSON 5 – THE RESURRECTION**

Our \_\_\_\_\_ rests on the truth of \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

*1 Corinthians 15:12-14* – \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**CURRENT VIEW**

- A. The \_\_\_\_\_ on the Resurrection
1. Biblical Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ created by Christians eager to start a church movement
  2. Real Jesus was no more a \_\_\_\_\_ than anyone else
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ - probably not first born, probably illiterate
  4. Spell binding itinerant preacher
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ who brought peaceful but brazen challenges to both Roman and Jewish elite
  6. He had \_\_\_\_\_ but performed no miracles
  7. He was executed almost casually after causing a disturbance in Jerusalem during Passover
  8. He lived on in the hearts of His believers, but did not physically rise from the dead
  9. Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and thrown into a shallow, anonymous grave and probably eaten by wild dogs
- B. What Is the Jesus Seminar?
1. Started in 1985 by Dr. Robert Funk in Berkley, California
  2. Began with 30 New Testament "scholars" – "experts" who met twice yearly
  3. Currently, have around 200
  4. Claim only 18% of the sayings and 16% of the deeds in the Gospels are true
  5. High profile makes this organization a darling of our \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Our Father** in the heavens,  
your name be revered.  
<sup>10</sup>Impose your imperial rule,  
enact your will on earth as you have in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup>Provide us with the bread we need for the day.  
<sup>12</sup>Forgive our debts  
to the extent that we have forgiven those in debt to us.  
<sup>13</sup>And please don't subject us to test after test,  
but rescue us from the evil one.

#### The Voting of the Jesus Seminar

- **Red**—Jesus undoubtedly said this or something very like it.
- **Pink**—Jesus probably or might have said something like this.
- **Gray**—Jesus did not say this, but the ideas are close to His own.
- **Black**—Jesus did not say this; it represents a later tradition.

**CHRISTIAN VIEW OF THE RESURRECTION**

## A. \_\_\_\_\_ Basic Propositions

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ have been found to be trustworthy
2. In these records, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
3. In \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel accounts, Christ's death and bodily resurrection are described in detail
4. \_\_\_\_\_ to believe \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Resurrection confirms the \_\_\_\_\_
6. If Jesus is God, whatever He says is true
7. Jesus used the \_\_\_\_\_ as the Word of God
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ contain religious, philosophical and ethical absolutes

## B. However...

**12 FACTS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION**

1. **Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Jesus death** caused the disciples to despair and lose hope, believing Him dead
4. **Jesus tomb was found to be empty a few days later**
5. **Disciples had experiences they believed to be** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Disciples were \_\_\_\_\_ from doubters to proclaimers
7. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ was central to the preaching of the early church
8. Jerusalem \_\_\_\_\_ the strong initial teachings of the early church
9. \_\_\_\_\_ **as a result of this teaching**
10. \_\_\_\_\_ became the primary day of worship
11. \_\_\_\_\_ formerly a skeptic and \_\_\_\_\_ was converted to faith when he also saw what he believed to be the resurrected Jesus  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ was converted a few years later by, what he believed to be, an appearance of the resurrected Jesus

**FACTS SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF THE APOSTLES**

These facts tend to support Fact No. 6: The disciples' (and others) lives were transformed upon their experience with the Risen Christ.

<b>APOSTLE</b>	<b>DIED</b>	<b>METHOD OF DEATH</b>
James, son of Zebedee	44 A.D.	
Philip	54 A.D.	
Matthew	60 A.D.	
James, brother of Jesus	62 A.D.	
James, son of Alphaeus	63 A.D.	
Simon Peter	64-67 A.D.	
Paul	64-67 A.D.	
Andrew, Simon's brother	65-69 A.D.	
Matthias	70 A.D.	
Bartholomew	62-68 A.D.	
Thomas	70 A.D.	
Thaddaeus (Judas, son of James)	72 A.D.	
Simon the Zealot	74 A.D.	
John, James' brother	89+ A.D.	

## THEORIES THAT ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN THE EMPTY TOMB

### A. Unknown Tomb

1. Body was thrown into a common grave; disciples created this theory and the account of the Resurrection
2. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. Facts \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Wrong Tomb

1. The women went to the wrong tomb
2. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. Fact 4 fits (empty tomb), but \_\_\_\_\_ do not

### C. Legend

1. Resurrection is simply a \_\_\_\_\_ over time to explain a leader that was long dead
2. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_

### D. Twin

1. Jesus had a twin that took His place after His death
2. Can explain most of the historical facts
3. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. It does not explain Fact \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. It goes against Fact \_\_\_\_\_

### E. Hallucination

1. Jesus' appearance was a hallucination
2. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. People \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Hallucinations \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. It goes against Facts \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## F. Existential Resurrection

1. Jesus only rose \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. Misses on Facts \_\_\_\_\_

## G. Spiritual Resurrection

1. Jesus rose \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. Same arguments as "F": \_\_\_\_\_

## H. Disciples Stole Body

1. Disciples came to the grave, overpowered the guards and stole the body
2. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. Facts \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What would have happened to \_\_\_\_\_?

## I. Authorities Hid Body

1. Either \_\_\_\_\_ authorities hid the body of Jesus
2. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. Facts \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Jewish – \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Roman – \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_?

## J. Swoon

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. Jesus would have had to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Facts \_\_\_\_\_ don't fit!

#### K. Passover Plot

1. Jesus deliberately set out to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies of \_\_\_\_\_ through mock death and resurrection, along with Joseph of Arimathea and a mysterious young man
2. Plan failed when Roman soldiers speared Jesus
3. Mysterious young man took Jesus' place as the risen Lord
4. Why doesn't it fit?
  - a. Facts \_\_\_\_\_

#### L. Jesus Was an Alien

1. Alien \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does it fit?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_

#### M. Bodily Resurrection

1. All the facts fit!

In Summary, the tomb of Jesus was either:

1. Occupied
  - a. Unknown tomb (4-12)
  - b. Wrong tomb (5-12)
  - c. Legend (1-12)
  - d. Hallucination (5, 11, 12)
  - e. Existential Resurrection (4, 5, 11, 12)
  - f. Spiritual Resurrection (4, 5, 11, 12)
2. Empty
  - a. Disciples Stole Body (5, 6, 11, 12)
  - b. Authorities Stole Body (5-12)
  - c. Swoon (1, 6)

- d. Passover Plot (5, 6, 11, 12)
- e. Jesus was an alien (all fit, but...)
- f. Jesus rose from the dead.