

EASTER: THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 28

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What is a “testimony”? What does it mean to witness?
- Have you ever had doubts about what you believe? How has it affected your faith?

It's easy to exclaim “I'll believe it when I see it!” But when it comes to the Christian faith, we base our beliefs about Jesus Christ's resurrection on the witness of the few who saw him in person after his resurrection, and before his ascension. Our belief that Jesus Christ conquered death rests on the witness of Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, and the disciples. Yet even as Matthew describes their eye-witness accounts, he records the fear and doubt they experienced as they first encountered the risen Lord and Savior. Reading and remembering these stories offers encouragement to our own faith and reminds us that worship and community are important tools the Holy Spirit uses to help us overcome our doubts.

Listen: [*Easter: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- What convinces you that Jesus Christ has risen, that the tomb is empty, and that he has conquered death?
- In segment 2, host Scott Hoezee makes a distinction between defending the Christian faith and proving the Christian faith. Why do you think this distinction is valuable and important? What do you think of the Watergate scandal example he shares to help us understand the disciples' depth of conviction regarding Christ's death and resurrection?
- Both Scott and host Dave Bast point to Matthew's descriptions of the disciples' post-resurrection encounters with Jesus to affirm that faith and doubt can coexist within us. Have you experienced the coexistence of faith and doubt in your life? How and why is this coexistence different than hypocrisy?
- As they close the episode, Scott and Dave discuss the importance of the “encouraging witness of the community” for buttressing our faith when we experience times or seasons of difficulty and doubt. When has your community supported your faith in the midst of doubt? Describe the experience and what it means to you. What elements of the corporate worship service help us express our faith as a community?

Related Passages

- **Mark 16**
- **Luke 24:1-49**
- **John 20:1-29**

- **2 Peter 1:16**
- **Acts 2:22-24**
- **Luke 16:19-31**
- **Acts 1:1-3**
- **Colossians 2:13-15**

Conclusion

Think about things you have witnessed and experienced that bolstered your faith. What has God done in your life that prompts you to worship even when you have doubts or questions? How are you following your resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ, and living out your Easter faith?

Write your testimony in a journal or challenge yourself to find an opportunity to share it as an encouragement to other believers.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/easter-the-resurrection-of-jesus-christ>

Printed on April 24, 2024