

## Easter Day 2022

**“People will not be convinced” – are you?**

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Jesus – rose from the dead.

In the tomb Friday

Dead. Gone.

Alive Sunday

He’s **alive!!**

Are you **convinced?**

Let me start with a story Jesus told.... A very **strange** story

A **rich** man and a **poor** man

Long story **short** – the **poor** man – grubby – filled with sores... used to sit in the **gateway** of the **rich guy** – hoping for **something** from the rich guy – even his **scraps!**

In this story Jesus told...

Both men **die**

The **rich** guy is in a place of agony

The **poor** guy – a place of great **comfort**

And there was no **passing** from **one** place to **another** – a huge uncrossable **chasm** between the **two**

The **rich guy** calls out – ***please send the poor guy to my family to warn them so they won’t also come to this place of torment***

And the answer comes back...

***They have the Bible – our Old Testament – let them listen to them***

And the rich guy calls out **again** – trying to **convince** – no – **listen** – if someone goes to my family from the **dead** – they will **repent** – they’ll turn their life **around...**

And the answer comes back

...if they won’t listen to the **Bible** – they will not be convinced even if **someone** rises from the **dead...** //

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So I have two very brief questions this Easter morning

1. Why is this **enough**? (Holds up Bible)
2. Why won't people be convinced if **someone rises** from the **dead**?

### 1. Why is this enough?

"Your family have Moses and the prophets," the rich guy was told... "let them listen to them...."

What God has left us with in the Scriptures... is **enough** to go on

Enough to **assure** us...

God is **real**

That he **loves** us

That he's **for** us //

And you and I don't only have **Moses and the prophets** – our Old Testament - we have the **Gospels and the Epistles** and **Acts of the Apostles** and the book of the **Revelation** – the **New Testament**

We have **plenty** to go on!

We have **enough!**

Enough to explain the **significance** of Jesus' death and the reality of his resurrection.... ///

Can you imagine being one of the **women** that first Easter morning?

**Broken hearted, early** in the **morning**, they make their way to tomb where only on **Friday** night they had seen Jesus **laid**...

They are on a **mission**

They could not do this **yesterday** because it was the **Sabbath**

So now they are even **more** keen to take the **spices** they had prepared and anoint Jesus' **body**

They approach the **tomb**

Even from a **distance** – something doesn't look right....

As they got **closer** – they realise with **shock** that the tomb has been rolled **away**...

How would you feel if you had laid to rest someone in one of those above ground mausoleums and you went back in a couple of days to lay **flowers** as we would do – but the door was swinging **open** in the **breeze**

**The women's heart rate** would have **immediately** increased

**Stress levels risen**

**Adrenalin** now **pumping** through their **body**

The women **courageously** enter the tomb, but they did not find the **body** of the **Lord Jesus**

What are they **thinking**?

They didn't have **too** long to ponder this however, as two men in **stunning white, gleaming clothes**, stood **beside** them

How are the **adrenalin** levels **now**?

Where had these men come from!! //

They do the only thing which occurs to them which is appropriate and bow right down – with their faces to the ground...

...and the messengers say

***Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen!***

What???????? He has what???

And the messengers **remind** them... and we have the words recorded in the gospels for us to go and check... *remember how he told you, The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'*

This was **always** going to be how it turned out

Jesus was **always** going to be handed over

**Always** going to be **crucified**... //

But the disciples had never quite cottoned on to the fact that Jesus had **consistently promised – declared –** on the **third day** he will rise again... //

But do you recall what happened as the messengers said these things?

v8 *Then they **remembered** his words.*

They **remembered**.... **YES – yes – he did say that... at least three times he said that...**

Oh **wow**...

This is **amazing**...

He **HAS** risen!

He's **alive**!

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Now two things are needed if we are to believe Jesus rose

An **empty tomb**...

All four gospels make that clear....

There is **NO BODY**

Second – **witnesses** who saw him **alive**

Certainly in **three** of the gospels – there are **multiple witnesses** – more than one at a time – and not isolated incidents – where Jesus is seen alive and eats and drinks with his disciples – no ghost – not hallucination...

And in the reading from Acts 10:39-41 - *“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross,<sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.<sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.*

An **empty tomb**

**Eyewitnesses**

**Enough**

**Enough to go on ///**

And these **eyewitness accounts... faithfully preserved** – **meticulously translated** from the **original language....**

And we are not only told facts – but the significance...

Acts 10 again (v43) - *All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives **forgiveness of sins** through his **name**.*

What a **gift**

What **great** joy

Everyone who believes in Jesus, **receives forgiveness of sins through his name**

From 2 Corinthians 5 – God was **reconciling** the world to himself in Christ, **not counting people’s sins against them**.

We have **enough**

To know of Jesus’ life, **teaching, miracles; to know he was hated by the religious people, loved by the sinners...**

Enough to know that to **everyone** who comes to their **senses** and comes **back** to God.... There is **welcome and embrace and forgiveness and eternal life.... ///**

But as I close – very briefly – my second question....

## **2. Why won’t people be convinced even if someone rises from the dead?**

Because they don’t **want** to

From day 1, people weren't **convinced**.

The religious were against Jesus from the **start**... even on this very day they paid off **soldiers** to say the body had been **taken**

And **today** – people will not be **convinced** if they don't want to be **convinced**

Because to admit Jesus rose from the dead

...would mean **too much**...

That God is **real**... that Jesus is **God**... that we are **accountable**... that there is someone who **calls** us to **surrender**...

And so many will want to hold their **position** – hold **out** on **God** – and run **their lives** their **way**!

Jesus said in his story – if they won't believe **Moses** and the **prophets** – the **Scriptures** – they won't believe even if someone **rises** from the **dead**...

Well - sure enough – someone DID end up rising from the dead... **Jesus himself**...

...and it has **NOT** been **enough**...

Not enough to convince **sceptics** that Jesus is for real

Not enough to convince people to **stop** their **rebellion** against God and find **reconciliation** ////

Someone **rose** from the **dead** – and it's not been enough to **end** the mess the **world** is in... ///

Let me ask you.... Is it **enough** for **you**?

**I hope so**

Enough for you to realise Jesus is **God**

Enough for to come to your **senses**, end your **rebellion** and come back to our loving **Father**...

...enough to be assured that through Jesus' **death and resurrection** – you've been **reconciled to God** – for **now** and **all eternity**

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Here we have enough

Testimony to an empty tomb

Witnesses who saw him alive

He is not here!!

He is risen!!

Happy Easter... !