

E A S T E R

Easter: The Resurrection

Andy Stanley

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:3–6, 14–16, 17–20, 32

Idea: If there is no resurrection, we should abandon all things Christian. Don't try to resurrect his teaching and intentions and leave his body in the grave. It's all or nothing.

Introduction

1. If you are new, Easter is a big deal to us. At the end, we are going to give you an opportunity to put your faith in Christ as your Savior. There's no better time than EASTER.
2. We believe Jesus rose from the dead. For real. Not because the Bible says so. The Bible doesn't say anything. The Bible is a collection of ancient documents written over a period of hundreds of years by over 40 authors that tells one amazing story: *the story of redemption*.

But back to my point . . .

3. We believe Jesus rose from the dead because Matthew, a tax collector, wrote about it. Mark, a first-century Greek, wrote about it. Luke, an interviewer, wrote about it. John, a business guy, wrote about it. Peter, John's business partner, wrote that he believed it happened. Paul, who knew all these guys, wrote about it. And James, the brother of Jesus, believed it. They died for what they said they saw.

I. It's natural to want to divorce the life and teachings of Jesus from the resurrection of Jesus.

We want to resurrect Jesus' life and teachings and leave his body in the grave.

- A. What he said is so good: Heaven. Faith. Love one another. It takes one to . . .
 1. We want to resurrect the spirit and the teachings of Jesus . . . alive in our hearts.
 2. The generosity and selflessness modeled by Jesus lives on.
 3. Plus: The idea of a physical resurrection after three days . . . that's hard.
- B. Problem is, the only reason you know there ever was a Jesus . . . the only things you know about Jesus, were written by the same people who tell us he physically rose from the dead.
- C. You believe the New Testament writers believed in the TRUTH of Jesus' teaching so much they made up a LIE to help get the message out. That's a big lie.