



## History's Mystery

Andy Stanley

**Scripture:** John 11:25; 14:9; 20:1-2; Luke 24:11; John 20:3-8; Acts 3:15; 2:38

**Idea:** The resurrection solves history's greatest mystery.

### Introduction

1. Today, I'm going to tell you why I believe you should strongly consider putting your faith in Jesus as your Savior, if you have not already.
2. I believe you should consider this in spite of some of the **Christians you've met** and **done business with**, in spite of the **revivals** and the **scandals**, in spite of how you view the **Bible**, and in spite of your **church experience**.
3. The reason has nothing to do with your personal experience.
4. History's Mystery
  - Why is it that **Nero**, an emperor of Rome, is known primarily for killing Christians and not being emperor?
  - Why is it that **Caesar Augustus**, Rome's first emperor, made Rome an empire and reigned 40 years, yet outside of history books, he is mentioned every Christmas, in languages all over the world, as a footnote to the story of the birth of a carpenter from Galilee, who ruled nothing, went nowhere, was public for three years, and was crucified by Caesar's adopted son, Tiberius?
  - Why, for 300-plus years before there was a **New Testament**, did people put their faith in Jesus?
  - How did the church get here?
5. The answers to those questions are why you should **consider** or **reconsider** putting your faith in Jesus.

*The simple explanation . . .*

### I. All movements have things in common.

- A. They have a **charismatic leader with a new or seemingly new message** that appeals to something going on in culture.
  1. The Prophet Muhammad in the late sixth and early seventh centuries (570-632)
  2. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- B. **When they die, their followers pick up** the burden of leadership and keep their teaching alive.