

Jesus is risen, that's why we are here. This isn't just a tradition this is a reality in our lives. Jesus died and somehow became alive again. That's weird and wonderful at the same time. Weird because it just is not normal and wonderful because it shows that everything God said would happen did.

Let's look at a few things from that resurrection story.

Mat 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

Just did normal stuff. They went to went to the grave site. It's the thing you do. But the experience is broken or at least changed.

Mat 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Mat 28:3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

Mat 28:4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

A couple of things here.

1. An earthquake as they arrive.
2. An angel appearing and moving the stone (which by the way was a very large hunk of rock) the sits on it.
3. There is a description of the angel guy
4. The reaction of the guards (who probably think they had seen everything before this) They are shocked and amazed to a point of being incapacitated.
5. The woman see all this.

Mat 28:5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

Mat 28:6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come,

see the place where he lay.

Mat 28:7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

There is a gentleness from this angel in his articulation of the facts here. A gentleness to the women yet he scared the soldiers so much they were incapacitated.

And what does the angel say?

Have a look then go and share the information.

Now as if that wasn't enough next – Jesus appears to them.

Now get this: Jesus was dead, they saw it happen yet here is Jesus. How does it work? I don't know and neither did they.

Mat 28:8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Mat 28:9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

Now saying greetings seems a bit formal, but it was just the giday of the day. Kind of as if Jesus was saying Hi there.

We don't know the full conversation but we have the overview.

Mat 28:10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

1. Don't be afraid (Yeh right this guy was dead but is now alive!!)
2. Tell my mates
3. Let them know I'll catch up with them too.

Meanwhile back at the tomb the guards are trying to get it together. Trying to work out what happened.

Listen to the outcome.

The Report of the Guard

Mat 28:11 While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place.

Mat 28:12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers

Mat 28:13 and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'

Mat 28:14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."

Mat 28:15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

They have no real answers. They have to make it up. It doesn't make sense and rather than deal with reality they explain it away- and its been happening for 2000 years. We don't have answer to how it happened so people make up solutions.

Here is the thing – we keep coming to church, we keep commemorating the event, we keep believing even in its weird and wonderfulness. Despite others who make us solutions and excuses we keep believing. Why? It makes sense, spiritually that is. It makes sense because we know Jesus, we experience Jesus we have a relationship to Jesus.

That whole concept of relationship comes out in the next part of the story.

The Great Commission

Mat 28:16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

Mat 28:17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

They worshipped him – in person, right there and then. How did they do that? It doesn't say, but it says they worshipped him.

The concept of worship is interesting isn't it.

The word in Greek is:

pros-koo-neh'-o

meaning to *kiss*, like a dog *licking* his master's hand; to *fawn* or *crouch to*, that is, oneself in homage (*do reverence to, adore*): - what we call worship.

Interesting – they worship him and he tells them to go and tell people about him.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Mat 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Easter is not a story of just an event. It is a story of a movement. It is the story of an on going relationship.