



Pastor Scott Archer 04.05.2015*
Easter Sunday
Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Resurrection Realities Luke 24:36-43

Central Passage

Luke 24:36–43 (NIV) — **36** While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." **37** They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. **38** He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? **39** Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." **40** When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. **41** And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate it in their presence.

Central Thought: The resurrection of Jesus – the heart of the Christian message – is the defining moment of human history.

Four Realities Concerning the Resurrection of Jesus

If Jesus did not physically rise from the dead then...

- ❖ Our faith and religious activity are meaningless.

1 Corinthians 15:17–19 (NIV) — **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. **19** **If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.**

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If the resurrection is a historical fact then...

- ❖ Jesus is Lord of everyone and everything.

Romans 1:1–4 (NIV) — **1** Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—**2** the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures **3** regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, **4** and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power **by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.** (See also John 14:5-14)

- ❖ Jesus is our future.

1 Corinthians 15:20–23 (NIV) — **20** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, **so in Christ all will be made alive.** **23** But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

1 Corinthians 15:42–49 (NIV) — **42** So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. **46** The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. **47** The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. **48** As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. **49** **And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.** (See also all of 1 Corinthians 15)

- ❖ Jesus is accessible.

John 20:26–27 (NIV) — **26** A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" **27** Then he said to Thomas, "**Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.**"

Matthew 11:28–30 (NIV) — **28** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."