

MY LORD AND MY GOD!
John 20:28

INTRODUCTION

- A. What one word (or two) would you use to describe Jesus?
 - 1. Loving, caring, compassionate...?
 - 2. A word that describes the whole character of Jesus?
- B. Who was Jesus Christ?
 - 1. A great man?
 - 2. A great teacher?
 - 3. A great deceiver?
- C. During His ministry, He was a charismatic figure...
 - 1. Attracting followers.
 - 2. Angering authorities.
 - 3. Eventually to be crucified.
- D. People made up stories after His death...
 - 1. Stories telling of miracles He performed.
 - 2. Was He a prophet or more than a prophet.
 - 3. Was He more than just a mere man?
- E. Gospel of John.
 - 1. Written to confirm that He was more than just a man.
 - 2. What would the apostles do now that He was gone?
 - 3. Thomas' response, "*My Lord and My God!*" John 20:28
 - a. This description was used by no other disciple or person describing Jesus.
 - b. My Master!
- F. What will cause us to accept the same fact?

I. THE MAJOR TRUTH.

- A. Raised From the Dead.
 - 1. John 20:1-10
 - 2. Mary Magdalene.
 - a. Saw the empty tomb.
 - b. Tells Peter and John.
 - 3. Peter and John.
 - a. Peter enters the tomb.
 - i. Linen wrappings.
 - ii. The face cloth rolled up separate from the other wrappings.
 - b. John enters tomb – believes, but why?
 - i. He saw the tomb was empty.
 - ii. Linen wrappings were still there.
 - iii. Facecloth neatly folded.
 - c. Peter did not yet understand, vs. 9.
- B. The Empty Tomb.
 - 1. If not empty – enemies could produce the body, disproving the disciples' claim.
 - 2. The wrong grave? The women witnessed the burial.
 - 3. Stolen body?

- i. Stealing bodies from graves common practice at that time.
- ii. Mt. 28:13 – the chief priests accused the disciples of stealing...
- iii. Jesus' friends had no reason to steal the body.
 - aa. They were not expecting the resurrection.
 - bb. They were living and dying for a lie.

II. CONFIRMING THE EVIDENCE – WITNESSES.

- A. Appearance to Mary Magdalene, Jn. 20:11-18.
- B. Appearance to Ten Apostles, Jn. 20:19-21, 24-25.
- C. Appearance to Thomas (and Apostles), Jn. 20:26-29.

III. IMPACT OF THE EVIDENCE.

- A. Nature of His Resurrection.
 - 1. Not just a soul – a physical body raised.
 - a. A body that could be touched and seen.
 - b. Proof of physical – eating fish, Lk. 24:42.
 - 2. We, too, will rise and be changed, 1 Cor. 15:42-44, 51-52.
- B. Certainty of His Resurrection.
 - 1. Appearance to Mary Magdalene.
 - 2. Appearance to the Apostles, ten at one time.
 - 3. Appearance to Thomas (and the ten Apostles) – physical proof.
 - 4. 1 Cor. 15:6, appeared to more than 500 at one time.
- C. Significance of His Post-Resurrection.
 - 1. Thomas' exclamation after seeing nail holes and pierced side.
 - 2. Jesus raised...
 - a. Proclaims as Son of God, Rom. 1:4.
 - b. Ruler over everything, Mt. 28:18, "*All authority...*"
 - c. One with the Creator, Jn. 17:21.
 - d. Partaker of Deity, Jn. 12:44-50.
 - 3. Must come to share in the faith shown by Thomas.

CLOSING

- A. John 20:30-31
 - 1. Signs – Jesus' miracles.
 - 2. Believe – how we should respond.
 - 3. Son – written to convince He is God's Son.
 - 4. Life – ultimate blessing.
 - a. Results from believing in and following Christ.
- B. What do you believe about Jesus?
 - 1. Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.
 - 2. Do you believe that He is Christ, Son of God?
 - 3. Ready to exclaim with Thomas, "My Lord and my God"?