



ALL IN 3

RISEN, REIGNING, RETURNING

*“Jesus presented
Himself alive by many
convincing proofs...”*
Acts 1:3

A true story from the Manchester Times tells of a tourist in a taxi who tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question. The driver screamed, lost control, side swiped a bus, drove over the curb and through a plate glass window. The still shaking driver quivered, "You OK? Man, you scared the day-lights out of me!" The trembling tourist also apologized, "I didn't think that a tap on the shoulder would startle you." The cab driver replied, "It usually doesn't, but this is my very first day driving a cab as I've been driving a hearse for 30 years!" For their entire lives the disciples had been driving a hearse never expecting the Messiah to rise from the dead just as He promised (Mark 8:32; 9:31; 10:32-33; Is 53:10-11). No wonder they were fearful, discouraged and uncommitted when He was crucified. **In the following verses use your own words to describe the disciples before the resurrection. With which do you most identify? Why?**

Matt 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; 28:16 Little or no faith

Matt 15:15-17 Lack of understanding

Matt 16:9 Thick headed

Matt 26:52 Operating with human effort and not in the Spirit

Matt 26:56; Lk 8:25; 9:34,45; 12:4,32; Mk 4:40; 6:50; 10:32 Fearful

Matt 26:69-75 Denied Christ. Cowardice

Mark 6:52; 8:17; 16:14 Hardness of heart

Mark 8:31-33 Rebuked Jesus as satan. Did not understand the gospel.

Mark 9:31-37 Self absorbed prideful lacking humility

Mark 14:27-31 Stubborn. Hard headed. Prideful

Mark 14:32-42; Mark 9:29 Prayerless; spiritually unaware

Mark 14:66-72 Self focused.

Luke 9:44-46 Pride of being great. Disunified; Not understand cross

Luke 9:50-56; Mt. 14:15; 15:23 Lack of compassion for others

Luke 22:31-32 Caved easily to temptation

Luke 24:25-27 Foolish and slow of heart to believe

John 13:5-9; 14-15 Lack of servanthood. Prideful

John 20:25; Matt 28:16-17 Doubtful

John 21:3-7 Discouraged at their failure. Going back to old way of life.

Jesus in His wisdom chose lowly, meek, weak, fearful, cowardly, unbelieving, self focused, reluctant, prideful disciples to turn the world upside down (Acts 4:13; 7:51-60; 17:6) by **empowering** with the Spirit (Acts 2:4) and **emboldening** them (Acts 5:28-32) with the facts of His resurrection. The driving passion of these men then became knowing the risen Christ that they might also tap into His resurrection power (Phil 3:7-14). For they became convinced that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead was available to them as they lived **ALL IN** for Him! A primary reason we are not **ALL IN** is that we are not really convinced that Jesus is risen, reigning and returning so our motives, thinking, actions, lifestyles, relationships, passions and priorities do not reflect His. Sure, we **profess** the Easter story but do not **possess** its powerful truth in our lives between Sundays. According to **I Cor 15** how important is the resurrection? How central is it to the core of your life? How does the resurrection grow men to become **ALL IN**?

Radical = radish = roots: The more rooted we are in the truth of the resurrection the more radical we will be in our love for those who face a Christless eternity away from God and the more **ALL IN** we will be in our desire to tell our family and friends about Christ.

*“Either the resurrection
is infinitely more than a
beautifully dramatic
story or else it is
infinitely less. If it is
true, then it is the
supreme fact of history;
and to fail to adjust one’s
life to its implications
means irreparable loss.”*
J.N. Anderson



“You’re in a rut pastor. Every time I come here you preach on the resurrection.”

BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION...

1. The **assurance of my salvation** (spiritual birth), **my continuing sanctification** (spiritual growth) **and eternal glorification** (spiritual future) **is guaranteed**. (Rom 4:25; 6:4; 10:9; I Pet 1:3; I Cor 6:14; II Cor 4:14)
2. **God proves He is sovereignly in control of all matters** in my life. (Rom 8:28-30; 14:9)
3. My **faith is grounded** in historical, verifiable, empirical facts and not in myth, fantasy or feelings. In the empty tomb God has the last word! (Acts 3:15; 26; I Cor 15; I Peter 1:20-21)
4. **All the power I need to live the life God has called me** to is available in the resurrected Christ. (Phil 3:10-14; Rom 6:5-14)
5. Jesus is **physically alive and reigning as Lord** in Heaven seated at the right hand of God the Father. (Eph 1:20; Col 3:1)
6. **Everything Jesus taught/proclaimed is true!** (I Cor 15:14-17)
7. I have **hope in my future physical resurrection from the dead** for eternity. (Col 1:27; I Cor 15:51-57)
8. I will gladly allow the Father to **daily transform my life more into the image of His Son**. (Rom 8:29-31)
9. It is now possible for me **to be a child in God's family and heir to His glory**. (Rom 8:14-17; I Peter 5:10)
10. I can **overwhelmingly conqueror the demands of everyday life** through Him Who loves me! (Rom 8:37)
11. **My deepest needs of purpose, peace, meaning, forgiveness, value, and eternal life** are met so that I do not have to fill my life with cheap substitutes. (Phil 4:10; 19)
12. I do not have to **pridefully draw on my own strength** to live all in. (Phil 3:7-13)
13. I am **a new creature in Christ**. (II Cor 5:17-21)
14. By His grace **my failure is not final**. (Rom 8:29-30; Jn 21)
15. **Jesus is now my audience of One** and I therefore need not worry what others think about me. (John 12:42-43; Col 3:23-24)

16. Jesus is not **liar** nor **lunatic** but sovereign **Lord** of all. (Col 1:13-23; Rev 4:9-11)



The following **“convincing proofs”** (Acts 1:3) of the resurrection will grow you to be more **ALL IN** as you put your confidence in Christ. We have empirical historical facts from reliable eyewitnesses so it is up to our culture to prove that Jesus did not raise and not our place to prove that He did.

1. Jesus **appeared alive physically** to the disciples over a period of 40 days showing that it was not an hallucination, mistake or sinister plot. (Acts 1:3-9; I Cor 15:3-9; Matt. 28:16-20; John 20:19-31; 21:1-25)
2. The **tomb was empty**. (John 20:1-9)
3. Jesus’ **dead and/or stolen body was never produced** by the Romans or the Jews. (Matt 27:62-66; 28:11-15)
4. **Changed/transformed lives** of the disciples. Followers of Christ changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Our growth in Christ (sanctification) is directly tied to the resurrection. (Acts 4:13, 20; I Cor 15:13-17)
5. **Men will not willingly die for a lie**. All 12 disciples and many of His followers were martyred for their faith in the resurrected Christ. (Acts 6-7; II Tim 4:7-8)
6. **What Jesus proclaimed came true**. (John 11:23-26; Mark 8:31-33; 9:31-32; 10:32-34)
7. All others who have claimed to be the Messiah or God have died and none has risen from the dead!

We are not adhering to a set of propositions or a religious philosophy called “Christianity.” By faith we are seeking to be **ALL IN** by following a **risen** Christ who is now **reigning** and will be **returning** just as He promised. Will you surrender all know about you to all that you now know about Christ?

ASSIGNMENT Review the passages in this sheet to ground your faith in truth rather than feeling. Express your faith to someone who does not know Christ explaining the truths you discovered in this lesson.

TAG TEAM DISCUSSION What truth about resurrection will motivate you to become more **ALL IN** for Christ? Why?