

# QUESTIONING JESUS

## Week 1: The Question of the Resurrection

### Key idea:

There is strong historical evidence pointing to the fact that Jesus died and was physically raised from the dead on the third day.

### Key text:

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.<sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

### Key points:

1. Jesus was really dead at the end of the crucifixion
2. The tomb was empty on Sunday morning
3. There were many eyewitnesses of the resurrected Jesus - including skeptics and enemies
4. The only reasonable explanation for the changed lives and martyrdom of the apostles is the resurrection of Jesus

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. How does our society think of faith? How do many today think of the relationship between 'faith' and 'facts'?
3. When faced with questions regarding the resurrection, does Paul primarily focus on his subjective personal experience, or on objective, external, historical facts? Why?
4. What is the place for our personal testimony in answering questions and objections from friends who do not believe? Should it be our primary answer or a support for the objective historical evidence for the Christian faith?
5. How important is the resurrection of Jesus? Does the Gospel make sense or offer any real hope apart from the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead? Why or why not?
6. How does God expect me to respond to the resurrection of Jesus? Is faith mere intellectual assent - or something more? Have I responded in true faith to Jesus, or with mere intellectual assent or curiosity?

### **Resources for Further Study:**

[\*The Case for Christ\*](#) by Lee Strobel - Part 3: Researching the Resurrection

[BeThinking](#) - Did Jesus Rise From the Dead?

[\*Know Why You Believe\*](#) by Paul Little - Chapter 4: Did Christ Rise From the Dead?