

**The Resurrection**  
**Series: The Story, chapter 27**  
April 20, 2014      Pastor Bill Bump

A continuing thread in *The Story* is God's relentless pursuit of the relationship He wants to have with us.

After the crucifixion, the religious leaders were worried about what Jesus had said he would do.

Matthew 27:62-66 (NLT) <sup>62</sup> The next day—on the first day of the Passover ceremonies—the leading priests and Pharisees went to see Pilate. <sup>63</sup> They told him, “Sir, we remember what that deceiver once said while he was still alive: ‘After three days I will be raised from the dead.’” <sup>64</sup> So we request that you seal the tomb until the third day. This will prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he came back to life! If that happens, we’ll be worse off than we were at first.”  
<sup>65</sup> Pilate replied, “Take guards and secure it the best you can.” <sup>66</sup> So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it.

One theory used to explain away the resurrection is called the swoon theory.

It is important for us to know that Jesus made around ten different appearances after his resurrection.

John 20:19-20 (NLT) That evening, on the first day of the week, the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. As he spoke, he held out his hands for them to see, and he showed them his side. They were filled with joy when they saw their Lord!

John 20:24-25 (NLT) One of the disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

John 20:26-29 (NLT) <sup>26</sup> Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”  
<sup>28</sup> “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.  
<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who haven’t seen me and believe anyway.”

Three results of the resurrection:

1. The resurrection vindicated Jesus.

Jesus' enemies had no explanation for that three-day period.

Matthew 27:51-54 (NLT) <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain in the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, <sup>52</sup> and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead <sup>53</sup> after Jesus' resurrection. They left the cemetery, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

<sup>54</sup> The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, “Truly, this was the Son of God!”

Matthew 28:2-4 (NLT) <sup>2</sup>Suddenly there was a great earthquake, because an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

Matthew 28:11-15 (NLT) <sup>11</sup> As the women were on their way into the city, some of the men who had been guarding the tomb went to the leading priests and told them what had happened. <sup>12</sup> A meeting of all the religious leaders was called, and they decided to bribe the soldiers. <sup>13</sup> They told the soldiers, “You must say, ‘Jesus’ disciples came during the night while we were sleeping, and they stole his body.’” <sup>14</sup> If the governor hears about it, we’ll stand up for you and everything will be all right.” <sup>15</sup> So the guards accepted the bribe and said what they were told to say. Their story spread widely among the Jews, and they still tell it today.

## 2. The resurrection defeated death.

John 11:25-26 (NLT) Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die like everyone else, will live again. They are given eternal life for believing in me and will never perish.”

## 3. The resurrection restored hope.

Romans 8:11 (NLT) The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you.

### Easter Survey

A—I have already invited Jesus into my life and have experienced God’s forgiveness and grace.

B—I have decided today to invite Jesus into my life and to experience God’s forgiveness and grace. I am asking Him to help me believe.

C—I’m in the process of considering inviting Jesus into my life so I can experience God’s forgiveness and grace.

D—I have no interest in having God’s forgiveness or grace in my life.