

Remnant Life Church
April 5, 2015
Easter Sunday

The Accomplished F.E.A.T. of the Resurrection
I Cor. 15:3-8

- Today we celebrate the greatest day in the life of the church
- The resurrection can only be one of two things:
 - Either a gargantuan fraud and, the greatest hoax ever perpetrated or...
 - The single greatest event in all of history.
- The historical proof of Jesus' resurrection has stood the test of time over the centuries
- Yet there are many people, many groups, even many scholars who still do not believe it ever happened
- No "thinking" person would believe that it happened
- Present 4 arguments for the truth of the resurrection
 - Argument is a disagreement or a defense
 - Apologist
- Acronym – **F.E.A.T.**

1. Fatal Torment

- a. The death of Jesus is a well-established fact of history that is completely consistent with the practices of the day
- b. There are those who claimed that He merely swooned
- c. The best medical minds of both ancient and modern science agree that the wounds that Jesus suffered, in their totality, were fatal
 - i. Beaten at the trials – blunt trauma; internal injuries – fists; rods; head blows (concussions)
(Mark 14:65, 15:15, 19)
 - ii. Scourged – blood loss; traumatic injury
(Matt 27:26)
 - iii. Crown of thorns on the head – blood loss
(Matt 27:29)
 - iv. Carrying the cross beam – fatigue; blood loss with elevated heart rate
(John 19:17)
 1. Matt, Mark, Luke – Simon of Cyrene
 2. After they had begun to lead Him
 - v. Nailed to the cross – severe trauma; blood loss (Mark 15:24)
 - vi. Suspended – fatigue; asphyxiation
 - vii. Spear to the side – through the 5th interspace between the ribs; through the pericardium and into Jesus' heart muscle
(John 19:34)
- d. To accept the theory that Jesus swooned or passed out on the cross as an explanation of the hoax comes against even the most basic of medical diagnoses

- i. He would have had to survive 6 trials through the night several ending with beatings; the scourging; the thorns; the 6-8" nails driven into His body; oxygen deprivation; and the thrust of the spear into the center of His chest all without having slept for at least the past 36 to 48 hours
- ii. Then to continue to believe that Jesus only swooned – we would have to believe that He lay for the next day and a half bleeding without medical attention; freed himself from the mummy style wrapping of the grave clothes (Jesus told the people to loose Lazarus); single-handedly rolled away a stone weighing approx. 1500 – 2000 lbs; subdued the armed Roman guards; walked around for the next 40 days on untreated, nail-pierced feet and then convinced His disciples to give up their entire lives and travel the world perpetuating a lie while Jesus Himself lived out the remainder of His life in pathetic obscurity
- iii. And people try to tell us that what we believe is nonsensical and impossible!
- iv. Jesus died on the cross that Friday afternoon

2. Empty Tomb

- a. It must begin by the acknowledgment that Jesus' body was indeed buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea
- b. As a documented member of the Jewish court his life is not a fabrication (Luke 23:50)
- c. No other burial story exists in all of accepted religious or scholarly literature
- d. The account of the burial is found in the Gospel of Mark
 - i. The earliest writing
 - ii. Only 30 or so years after the events took place not 100's
- e. The writings content bear out their accuracy
 - i. The prominent place of women (all 4 gospels)
 - ii. First century
 - 1. Second class citizens
 - 2. Their testimony was unacceptable in court
 - iii. A fabrication would have presented it in the best light possible not including the embarrassment of the women's roles
- f. The Jewish leaders themselves, the very opponents of Jesus confirmed it by their actions
 - i. The bride to the guards (Matt 28:12)
 - ii. The lie of what happened (28:13)
 - iii. Instead of denying the tomb was empty they claimed the body had been taken

3. Appearances

- a. In order for the hoax to be preserved the appearances would have had to have been to a select few to control the story
- b. But the appearances were numerous, to many people, and of many different groups – not just the disciples

- i. **READ I Cor 15:3-8** – Paul lists those who Jesus had appeared to also saying that many were still alive
- ii. In other words – “go ask them yourselves” (15:6)
- iii. A thinking person will point to emotional hallucination
 - 1. They saw what they wanted to see
 - 2. Hallucination are subjective and scarce usually in people with personality disorders or intense expectation of an event or occurrence and do not suddenly stop
 - 3. Jesus appeared to great numbers of people, of all types, with no expectation of seeing Him, and then they abruptly and completely stopped
- iv. It is impossible to discount all of the sightings for Jesus without dismissing the physical evidence

4. Transformation

- a. Consider how the resurrection transformed three of the men tasked with taking the message to the world
 - b. *Peter*
 - i. Indignantly proclaimed to Jesus that he would never abandon Him! (Mark 14:31)
 - ii. He could not even stand up to a young girl (Luke 22:56)
 - iii. He did become that rock on which the church would be built (Matt 16:18)
 - iv. Crucified upside down according to tradition
 - c. *James*, the brother of Jesus did not embrace his brother’s ministry (John 7:5)
 - i. But after the resurrection he became the leader of the church of Jerusalem (Gal 2:9)
 - ii. Was martyred for his faith
 - d. *Paul* was completely transformed by the risen Jesus
 - i. The chief persecutor of the Christians (Acts 9:1)
 - ii. Became the first great missionary and church-planter
- The transformation continues today over 2000 years later
 - This morning we rejoice that the tomb is empty
 - It is our joy, our strength, our hope, our reason for life
 - What is your reason?