

THE BIG IDEA

Evidence of the resurrected Christ comes from the inside, not from the outside.

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

So many people have a difficult time believing in the resurrection of Jesus because they haven't seen it matter.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Allow the resurrection to reside within us, and spill out into the world around us, bringing new life to our friends, our city, and our world.

START HERE

We want our entire church to be a part of the conversation. If you missed any of the messages from Sunday, you can catch up <u>here</u>.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint (what?) Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

- Mark 16:2-6

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- More resources posted on the Forefront blog - <u>READ</u>
- MidrashNYC.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 6

 Newcomers Dinner - RSVP at forefrontnyc.com/ newcomersdinner

Wednesday, April 13

 Game Night at the Kenmore -Sign up at <u>forefrontnyc.com/</u> kenmoregamenight

Monday, April 19

 Do For One Night - Sign up at <u>forefrontnyc.com/</u> doforonenight

Sunday, April 3 through Sunday, May 22

 Forefront Church: Together in This - more info at forefrontnyc.com/tgit

Friday, May 13

 Together in This Gala - buy your tickets at forefrontnyc.com/tgit/give

THE PARADOX

Today, I'd like to ask you to set something aside for a few minutes. And I'll be honest with you, I too, have to set this aside within myself every year that Resurrection Sunday rolls around. The bodily resurrection of Jesus, according to good science, is implausible. People don't rise from the dead. And as a person who believes in God and who also believes that God wants me There are only a few options we have to choose from about the resurrection.

- 1. Either Jesus didn't really die, i.e. he came very close to death and was placed in a grave and healed enough over a period of three days, to get up and left the tomb. That's one option.
- 2. The other option is that he did die, his body was stolen and the whole story after that about him being alive was a fabrication.
- 3. Then there's a third option. He actually rose from the dead.

Yet, these options fall short of making sense of what we experience as Christians today. There is something more to it. There is something that is happening within people, that has been happening for a couple thousand years. Hope, love, joy, charity, and renewal is spilling out into the world through individuals who are experiencing the new life that springs from the resurrection.

How is the resurrection real within you?

How can your life be a testimony to the reality of the resurrection of Christ?

CLOSING PRAYER

May the resurrection bring new life to us, to our city, and to the world. Amen.