

A person wearing a white, textured robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. Their hands are resting on their lap, and their right hand is pointing towards a footprint in the sand. The background is a vast, flat expanse of sand under a clear sky.

The Hope of Easter
Jesus: Who and Why? – Part 7

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A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. They are pointing their right hand towards a set of footprints in the sand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

Respond to the resurrection:

- ❖ Believe and change.
- ❖ Reject and find something else to believe.

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. Their right hand is resting on their knee, and their left hand is pointing towards a set of footprints in the sand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Offensive symbols:

- ❖ The yoke of burden
- ❖ The cup of suffering
- ❖ The towel of service
- ❖ The cross of execution

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Why has Jesus called you?

- ❖ That he might be with you
- ❖ That he might send you

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy or dirt-covered ground. The person's hands are resting on the ground in front of them. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown color, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The text 'This, not that:' is written in a white, serif font with a black outline, centered above a thin red horizontal line.

This, not that:

- ❖ Desperate, not arrogant (3)
- ❖ Compassionate, not unconcerned (4)
- ❖ Submissive, not pushy (5)
- ❖ Hungry for God, not self-satisfied (6)
- ❖ Merciful, not harsh (7)



This, not that:

- ❖ Pure in heart, not deceitful (8)
- ❖ Peaceful, not violent (9)
- ❖ Kingdom-advancing, not self-preserving (10)

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. The person's hands are resting on the sand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown. Overlaid on the image is the text "All about God:" in a white, serif font with a black outline. Below the title is a horizontal red line. Underneath the line is a list of five questions, each preceded by a small white diamond symbol. The questions are also in a white, serif font with a black outline.

All about God:

- ❖ Why should we love our enemies?
- ❖ Why be holy?
- ❖ Why live without worry?
- ❖ Why store up treasures in Heaven?
- ❖ Why pray?



Miracles show:

- ❖ Jesus is cause for celebration.
- ❖ Suffering may be for God's glory.
- ❖ Jesus made it a priority to spend time alone in prayer.
- ❖ Jesus is our true source for sustenance.
- ❖ Jesus cares.

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. They are using their right hand to draw a footprint in the sand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape. The text 'The heart of God?' is overlaid in a white, pixelated font with a black outline, centered above a thin red horizontal line.

The heart of God?

- ❖ Look at how Jesus responds to suffering.
- ❖ Look at how Jesus responds to rejects.

A person wearing a white, long-sleeved robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. Their right hand is resting on their lap, and their left hand is extended, pointing towards the ground. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

The mission of Jesus

- ❖ To set the oppressed free
- ❖ To proclaim
 - ❖ Good news to the poor
 - ❖ Freedom for the prisoners
 - ❖ Recovery of sight for the blind
 - ❖ The year of the LORD's favor

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. The person's hands are visible, with one hand resting on the sand and the other pointing towards the ground. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown, suggesting a desert or beach setting. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font with a black outline.

Colossians 2:15

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. Their right hand is resting on their lap, and their left hand is extended, pointing towards a footprint in the sand. The scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and reflective atmosphere.

The message of the cross:

- ❖ Power causes suffering.
- ❖ Love absorbs suffering.

1 Corinthians 15:17-19

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. They are pointing their right index finger towards a distinct footprint in the sand. The background is a vast, flat expanse of sand under a bright sky.

11 Disciples:

- ❖ Gullible rubes?
- ❖ Shrewd conspirators?

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. Their hands are pressed against the sand, and they appear to be in a state of prayer or contemplation. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

Matthew 28:11

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.

Matthew 28:12-14

When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. Their hands are positioned as if they are writing or drawing in the sand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown, suggesting an outdoor setting like a beach or a desert. The text is overlaid on the image.

Matthew 28:15

So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. The person's right hand is pointing towards a set of footprints in the sand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape. The text "Respond to the resurrection:" is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font with a black outline. A red horizontal line is positioned below the title.

Respond to the resurrection:

- ❖ Believe and change.
- ❖ Reject and find something else to believe.

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Luke 16:31

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

1 Corinthians 15:3-5

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.



1 Corinthians 15:6

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:7-8

Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

A person wearing a white, long-sleeved robe is kneeling on a brown, textured carpet. Their hands are resting on the floor in front of them. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the person and the text overlaid on the image.

John 20:29

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”



Philip Yancey:

“That Jesus succeeded in changing a snuffling band of unreliable followers into fearless evangelists, that eleven men who had deserted him at death now went to martyrs’ graves avowing their faith in a resurrected Christ,



Philip Yancey:

“that these few witnesses managed to set loose a force that would overcome violent opposition first in Jerusalem and then in Rome — this remarkable sequence of transformation offers the most convincing evidence for the Resurrection.

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Philip Yancey:

“What else explains the whiplash change in men known for their cowardice and instability?”

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Contemporary messiahs?

- ❖ Jim Jones
- ❖ David Koresh
- ❖ Marshall Applewhite



C.H. Dodd

“The Resurrection is not a belief that grew up within the church; it is the belief around which the church itself grew up, and the ‘given’ upon which its faith is based.”



Recommended reading:

- ❖ Frank Morrison, *Who Moved the Stone?*
- ❖ Josh McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*
- ❖ Lee Strobel, *The Case for Easter*

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2 Samuel 12:23

[David]: "But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. The person's hands are resting on the sand, and their head is bowed. The background is a vast, flat expanse of sand under a bright sky. The overall mood is one of contemplation and longing.

C.S. Lewis

"The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing ... to find the place where all the beauty came from."

A person wearing a white, flowing robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. The person's hands are resting on the sand, and they appear to be in a state of prayer or contemplation. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is serene and spiritual.

Dorothy Sayers:

“God did not abolish the fact of evil:
He transformed it. He did not stop the
crucifixion: He rose from the dead.”

A person wearing a white, long-sleeved robe is kneeling on a sandy surface. The person's hands are resting on the sand. The background is a blurred, warm-toned landscape. The text "Nothing changed?" is written in a white, stylized font with a black outline, positioned in the upper center of the image. A thin red horizontal line is drawn below the text.

Nothing changed?

- ❖ Rome still ruled Israel.
- ❖ The religious leaders persecuted the disciples to death.
- ❖ Violence and pain and death continued.



John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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How will you respond?

- ❖ Believe and change.
- ❖ Reject and find something else to believe.





Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper