



April 1, 3-4, 2010
MESSAGE NOTES

Would you be willing to be brutally killed, if you knew it wasn't true...that the whole thing was totally false?

Would you be willing to be beaten and die for someone you knew was crazy, lying, or both?

For a scam or a hoax, would you be willing to be:

- Beheaded like James?
- Crucified upside-down like Peter?
- Killed with a spear like Thomas?
- Stoned to death like Philip?
- Skinned alive like Bartholomew?

John 14:6

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Acts 2:14

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

NOTES:

The End...The Beginning: Part 1

Francis Anfusio

The number of Americans who say they believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ has dropped 10 points since 2003 to 70%, according to the most recent Harris poll.

📖 **swoon the·o·ry** (*theory*): assumes Jesus never really died, but just "swooned" on the Cross and was somehow wonderfully revived in the tomb.

Ephesians 1:11 (NLT)

...because of Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for **He chose us from the beginning**, and all things happen just as He decided long ago.

1Corinthians 15:14

...if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

Matthew 27:62-64

The Chief Priests and the Pharisees go to Pilate and said, "We remember that while He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.'"

"So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that He has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

CASTING FOR THE RESURRECTION STORY

Role #1 – CRITIC:

You can be a Chief Priest and Pharisee, a critic, and call Jesus a "_____."

Matthew 27:65

“Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.”

Role #2 – UNDECIDED:

You can be _____ and try to get the blood of Jesus off your hands.

Matthew 27:66

So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Matthew 28:2-4

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His (the angel’s) appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

Role #3 – INTIMIDATED:

You can know Jesus rose from the dead, but be too _____ to follow Him.

Matthew 28:5-8

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.”

“Then go quickly and tell His disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.’” So the women hurried away from the tomb, **afraid yet filled with joy**, and ran to tell His disciples.

Role #4 – CONVINCED:

You can get filled with _____ and run to tell others about Jesus.

Matthew 28:9-15

Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, “**Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me.**”

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. 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.” 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.

Role #5 – PASSIVELY OPEN or ACTIVELY SEEKING:

You can know the truth, but still _____ to follow Jesus.

John 20:24-25

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas, 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.”

Who are you in the Resurrection Story?

- CRITIC – like the critical Chief Priest or Pharisees, believing Jesus was a “deceiver”
- UNDECIDED – like Pilate, trying to stay neutral when it requires a decision
- INTIMIDATED – like the guards who had seen but still refused to believe because of the cost
- CONVINCED – like Mary, who ran to tell others she had seen the resurrected Jesus
- PASSIVELY OPEN or ACTIVELY SEEKING – like Thomas who needed to meet the resurrected Jesus