

“Why Didn’t He Just Stay Dead?”

Luke 24:1-49

(A free transcript of the sermon is available at the Information Desk in the Lobby)

THEME: What difference would it have made if Jesus just stayed dead? If Jesus’ mission in the world was to establish a religion in his name, he could have died and remained dead. The founders of other major world religions are dead but not forgotten. If Jesus was only a great teacher of truth, his teachings would continue to inspire people even if he didn’t rise from the dead. If Jesus’ sole purpose was to show mankind the ultimate example of sacrificial love, his success would not have demanded a resurrection.

Why does the Christian faith make such a bold claim that Jesus Christ arose from the dead? Why couldn’t he just stay dead?

By reading the record of Christ’s resurrection in Luke’s Gospel, chapter 24 we understand some **reasons** why Jesus had to rise from the dead.

I. HE HAD TO RISE TO REVEAL A SPIRITUAL REALITY (1-12)

II. HE HAD TO RISE TO DEFINE A FUNCTIONAL FAITH (13-43)

III. HE HAD TO RISE TO MARSHAL A GLOBAL HOPE (44-49)