



Who is Jesus?

THE WORLD OF JESUS AND THE PEOPLE OF JESUS

Where did the story of Jesus take place?



- Palestine (today is known as Israel)
- About 150 miles long
- 60 miles wide at its broadest point
- About 3 times the size of Cook County
- A mix of mountains, deserts, valleys, fertile land, and rocky land
- Divided by the Jordan River
- Bodies of water include Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea
- Jerusalem: capital city
- Shepherds and Farmers – agrarian and nomadic
- Ruled by the Roman Empire
- Relied on oral communication



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Who governed the land?

- For centuries, Palestine endured waves of invasions
- During Jesus' time, Palestine was occupied by the Roman Empire, that means taxation by a foreign power
- Palestine was Governed by Tetrarchs (Herod Antipas), kings (Herod the Great), procurators (Pontius Pilate)
- Military occupation





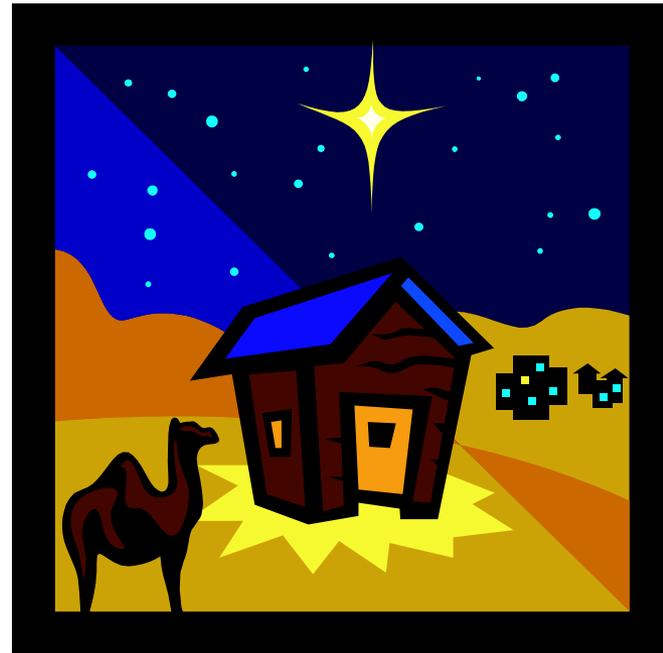
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Where was Jesus born?

BETHLEHEM

But you, O Bethlehem,
who are little to be among the clans
of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days. (Micah 5:2)





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Where did Jesus grow up and where did he live as an adult?



Nazareth

Where Mary and Joseph lived



Capernaum

Peter's home

Where Jesus was living as an adult



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Where did the story of Jesus come to its dramatic conclusion?

Jerusalem





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Who were some of the political and religious groups of the time?



- Sadducees – priestly class tried to get along with Rome
- Pharisees – moderates who focused on living the Law
- Sanhedrin – Jewish religious court
- Scribes (Jewish scholars)
- Essenes – withdrew from society (Qumran – Dead Sea Scrolls)
- Zealots – sought Jewish independence
- Gentiles – non-Jews
- Samaritans – Jews who intermarried during the Exile



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Who were the *disciples* of Jesus?

- Disciples means “Learner, follower”
- All Rabbis (Jewish teachers) had disciples
- Share in the master’s ministry
- Jesus sent out 72 disciples (Luke 10)
- We are called to be disciples





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Who were the *Apostles* of Jesus?

The Twelve

Simon (who is called Peter);

Andrew (Simon Peter's brother);

James, son of Zebedee; (James the Greater)

John (brother of James);

Philip;

Bartholomew (Nathaniel);

Thomas;

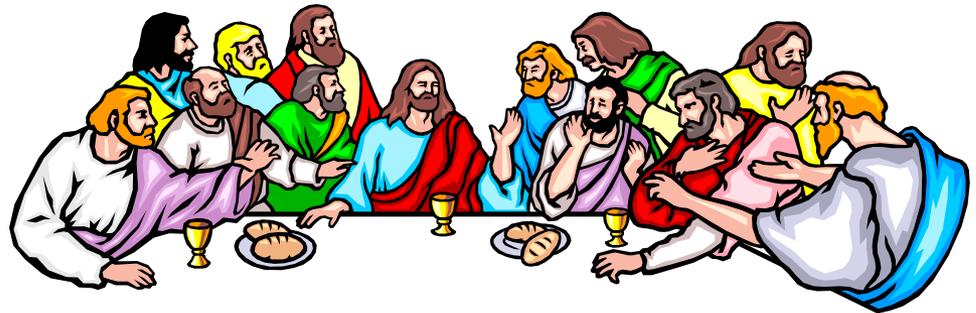
Matthew, the tax collector (Levi);

James, son of Alphaeus (James the Less),

Thaddaeus (Jude, son of James);

Simon the Zealot;

Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus





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How did Jesus relate to the *outcasts* of society?

Jesus freely associated with those who were the outcasts of society:

- the poor
- known sinners
- tax collectors and prostitutes
- Samaritans
- lepers
- Gentiles (non-Jews)





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How did Jesus relate to *women* in his time?

In Jesus' time, women were considered property of men and stayed at home. *In contrast*, Jesus' dealings with women show respect and dignity:

Mary, Mother of Jesus

Jesus heals many women

Martha and Mary (sisters of Lazarus)

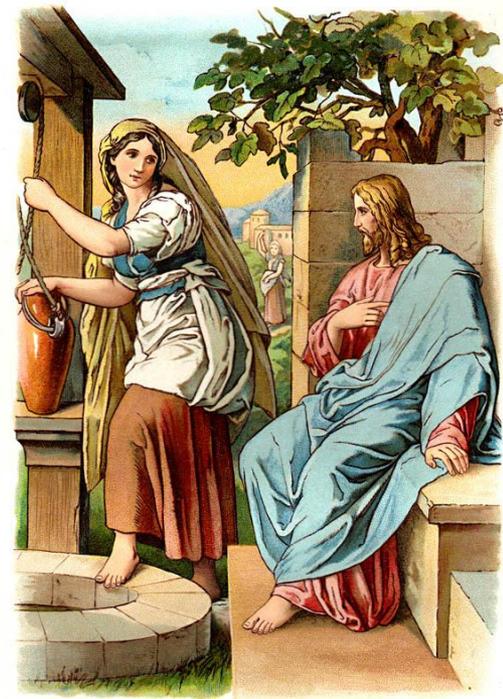
The Samaritan woman

Women accompanied the disciples and supported the mission

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna

Women are present at the Crucifixion (Little Company of Mary) and at the tomb on Easter morning

The Risen Christ appears to Mary Magdalene



Jesus and the woman of Samaria.



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What was the central message of Jesus' teaching?

REPENTANCE!

- **MEANS TO CHANGE YOUR MIND FROM SIN AND DOING WRONG, TO LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S RULE – THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**
- **God tells us to be repentant and to make the right choice.**

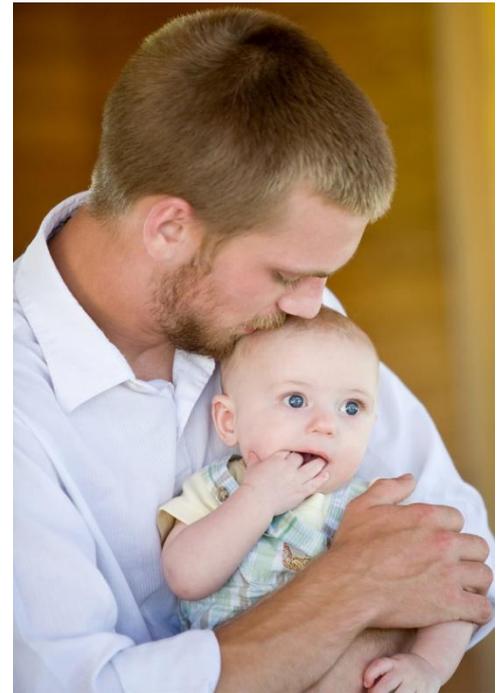


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What did Jesus teach us about the Father?

- Jesus refers to God as the “Father” or “Abba” which is like pappa or daddy.
- Just because we call him father does not mean God is a man it is just an image to help us know that he loves us eternally.





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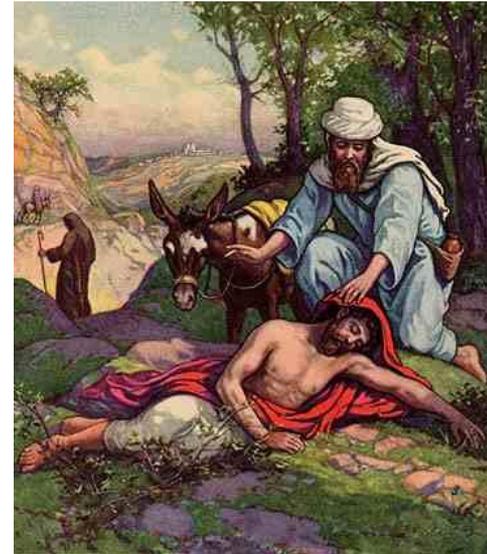
THE WORDS AND ACTIONS OF JESUS

What are parables?

Parables are short, memorable stories that challenge us to see (think) differently (to repent).

Themes

- assurance of the approach of the kingdom
- The presence of the kingdom
- God's mercy
- God's judgment
- The passion
- The end of the world





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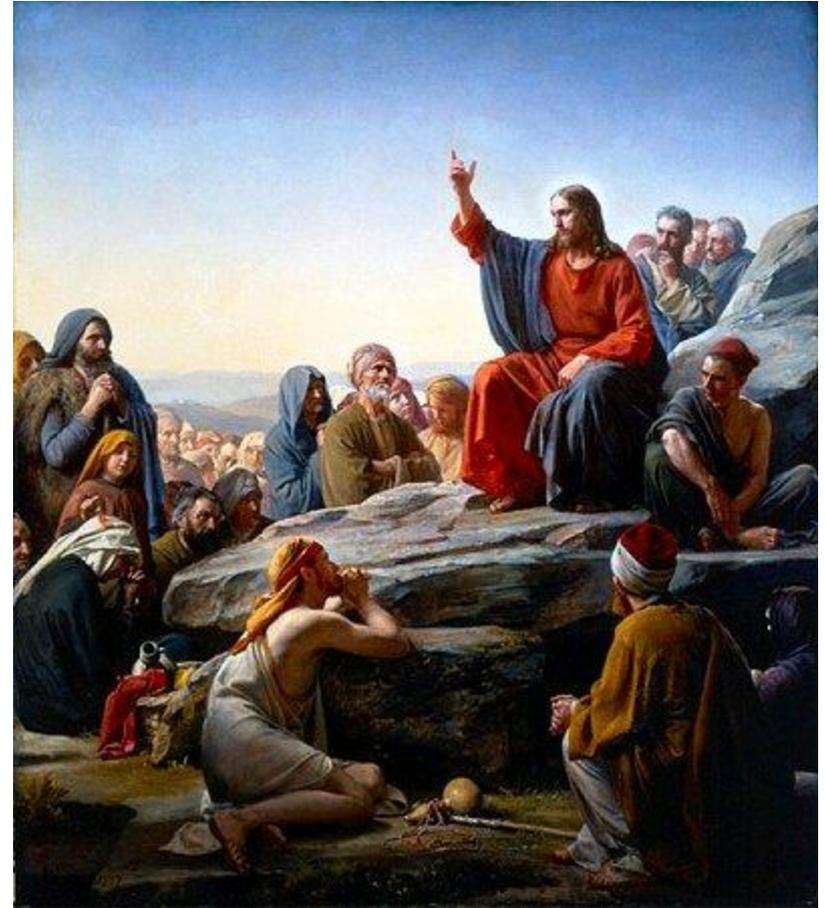
THE WORDS AND ACTIONS OF JESUS

What are examples of Jesus' sermons?

Sermon on the mount

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

(the Beatitudes)





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How did Jesus also teach by example?

Jesus taught through his own actions such as at the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples.





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What are miracles?

- Miracles were seen as visible examples of God's control over the world
- Miracles were signs of the presence and power of the kingdom of God
- Jesus' miracles reveal the power of God





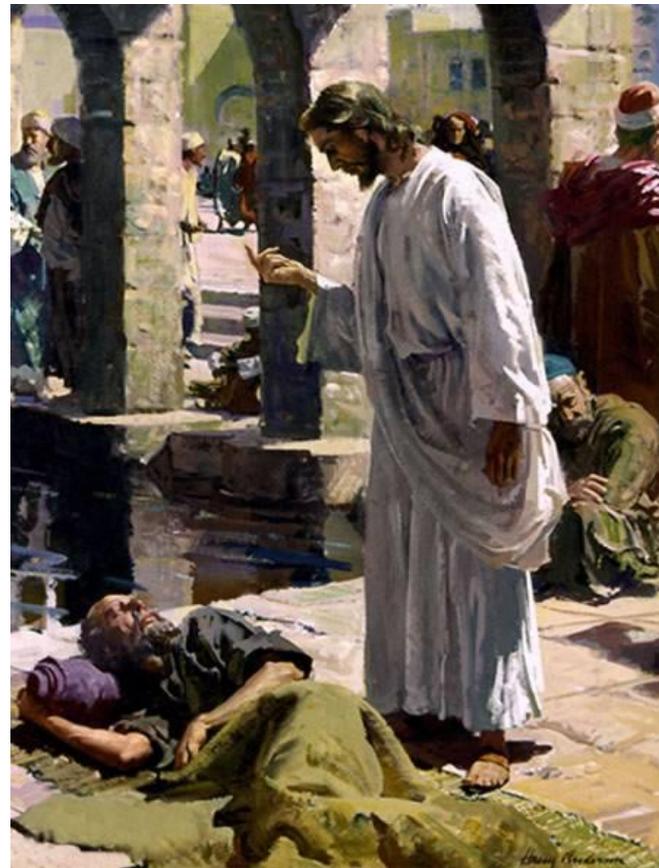
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What are examples of Jesus' miracles of healing?

Some of Jesus' miracles of healing were:

- Fever
- Leprosy
- Chronic bleeding
- Withered hands
- Deafness
- Blindness
- Paralysis



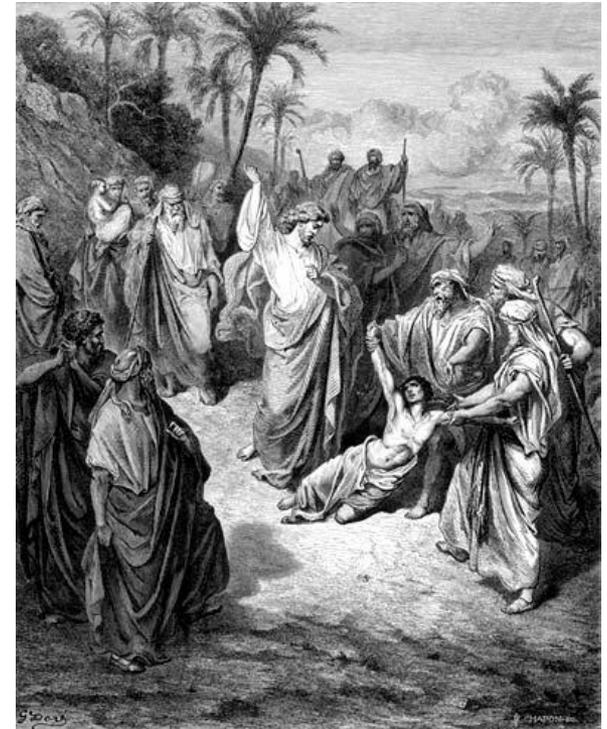


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What are examples of Jesus' miracles of exorcism?

- Jesus heals people who have been possessed by demons or evil spirits.
- God's victory will be completed when all evil is removed from creation.
- Jesus' exorcisms are a sign of God's saving power.





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What are examples of Jesus' miracles of nature?

- He walks on water
- He changes water into wine
- He feeds 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish.





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What do miracles have to do with faith?

- They are visible signs that God is real.
- They challenge us to transform (change, repent) our lives.

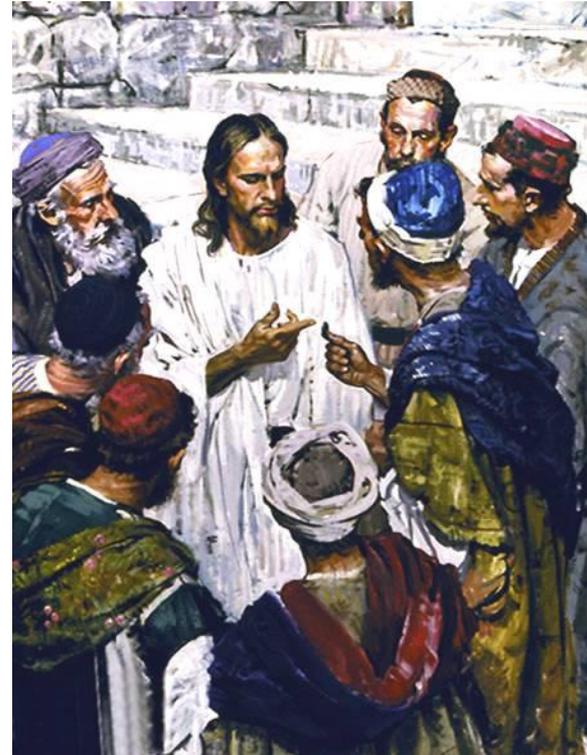




Who is Jesus? **THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS**

Why did Jesus die?

- He died to save us from our sins
- religious leaders saw Jesus as a threat to the religious and political establishment
- religious leaders didn't like Jesus' interpretation of the Law
- They considered it blasphemy for Jesus to be considered the Son of God.





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What events led up to Jesus' crucifixion?

- The Jews were afraid of a Roman crackdown on the new “king of the Jews”
- The Jewish high priest Caiaphas concluded that it was better that one man die than for a whole nation to suffer
- Judas Iscariot arranged to have Jesus arrested by the Jewish guards
- The Jewish Sanhedrin holds a trial and finds Jesus guilty of blasphemy
- They arrange to have Jesus brought before the Roman Procurator, Pontius Pilate to find him guilty of treason.

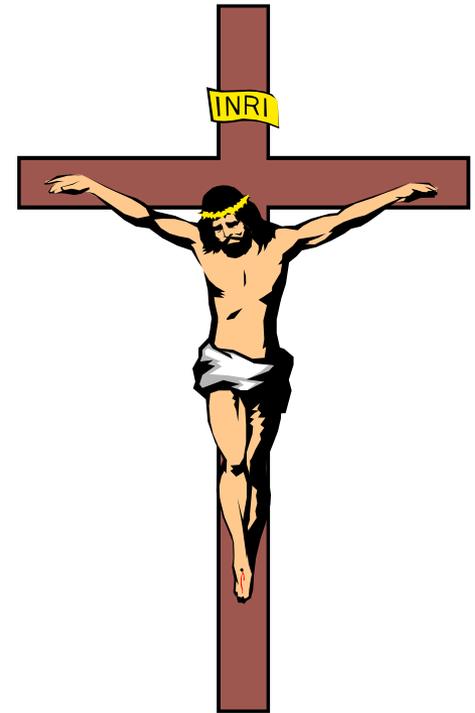




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What is crucifixion?

- Crucifixion was a gruesome, public execution.
- The condemned man carried a crossbeam, which weighed between 75-125 pounds, on his shoulders.
- The criminal was then nailed to the upright beam of wood, using spikes about 7 inches long, most likely driven through the wrists and feet.
- Death was caused by blood loss and asphyxiation (suffocation)
- Often the criminal's legs were broken to hasten death.
- Death would occur within hours or days, depending on the individual's physical condition.
- Jesus, having been severely beaten, died after 3 hours on the cross.

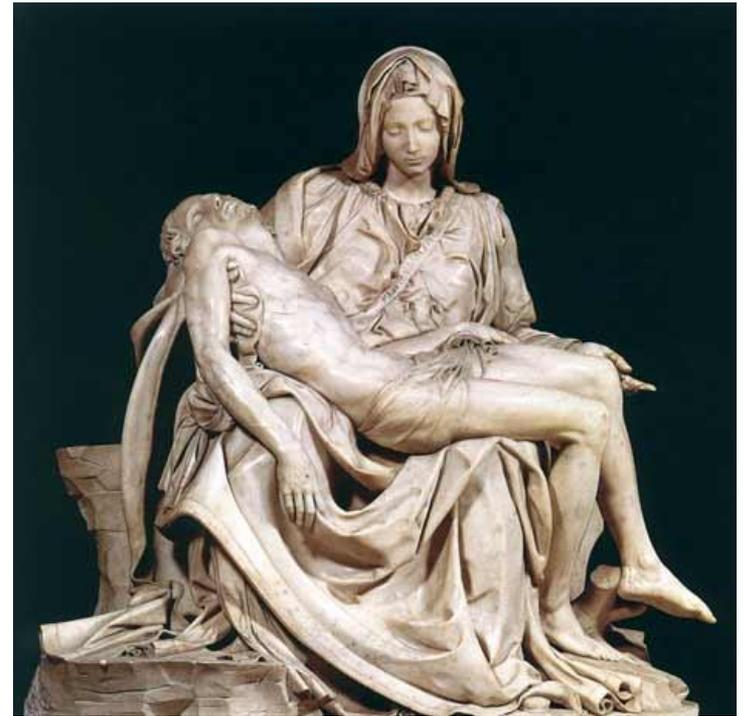




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What happened after Jesus died?

- Jesus was removed from the cross and placed in the arms of his mother, Mary.
- Jesus was buried on Friday, late in the afternoon, in a tomb provided by Nicodemus.
- At sundown, Sabbath began, so the women were unable to go to the tomb to anoint a body.
- They had to wait until Sunday morning.
- Jewish officials requested a Roman guard





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What is the Resurrection?

- There are no eyewitness accounts of the moment of Resurrection, only the discovery of an empty tomb and accounts of encounters with the Risen Christ.
- The women who come to the tomb on Sunday morning find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty.
- Peter and John run to the tomb and find it just as the women described.
- On that day, the Risen Christ appears to:
 - Mary Magdalene
 - The “other” women
 - 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus
 - Simon Peter
 - The apostles without Thomas
- In most cases, the Risen Christ is not immediately recognized.





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What does faith have to do with the Resurrection?

- We have no proof of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- We do however have compelling evidence and our faith is based on their witness:
 - The disciples
 - Saul of tarsus/Paul
 - The Saints
 - The martyrs
- We are called to give witness to the Resurrection!

