

“In the first century, to claim that your god had risen from the dead and ascended to heaven, well, it just wasn’t that unique. The claims of these first Christians weren’t really anything new. Everybody’s god had risen from the dead. What makes yours so special?”

Have you ever thought about what makes your faith special?
Do you believe that the act of Jesus rising from the dead is what makes the Christian faith unique?

After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. As they met and ate meals together, he told them that they were on no account to leave Jerusalem but “must wait for what the Father promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon.”

When they were together for the last time they asked,
“Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?
Is this the time?”

He told them, “You don’t get to know the time. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.”

These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared — in white robes! They said, “You Galileans! — why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly — and mysteriously — as he left.”

[Acts 1:3-11 \(MSG\)](#)

“These first Christians believed that Jesus’ resurrection had implications for the entire universe. Their tradition had taught them that the world is broken and desperately in need of repair and that at some point in the future, God was going to put it all back together. For them, this future restoration had nothing to do with leaving this world; it was all about the restoration, the renewing and the reclaiming of this world.”

What are your beliefs about the implications of Jesus’ resurrection?
Do you believe the references of restoration are about this world or about leaving this world?

“They saw in Jesus’ resurrection the beginning of this universe-wide movement to put it all back together.”

Do you have the sense that you’re part of a movement that’s putting the world back together?
Why or why not?

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?

[Romans 8:20-25 \(NIV\)](#)

“These first Christians believed very passionately that the world was not made better through military power and political coercion. This gospel they were living had nothing to do with using political force to force people to live according to your laws. For them, this gospel was about serving the world, especially those on the underside of the Empire. For them, it was about serving, not ruling.”

Is your understanding of the central claims of the Christian faith that it's all about serving and not controlling or ruling? Do you think people today generally perceive Christians as people who serve or as people who forcefully try to rule?

And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

[Acts 2:44-45 \(NASB\)](#)

“Some people, some people are fierce with reality, aren't they? They don't have to spout off about how they're right and everybody else is wrong because there is something going on inside of them so powerful, so tangible, you can't help but ask them questions; you're dying to know why they are the way they are. You want them to explain the reason for the hope that's within them. It's because when you're around people like this you have this sense that you've in some way been with Jesus.”

Do you know anyone like that?
Are you that kind of person yourself?

“This has a deeply personal dimension to this. Jesus is saving me, he's saving me from my sins, from my mistakes, from my pride, from my indifference to the suffering of the world around me. From my cynicism and despair, the brokenness I see in the world around me is true of my own soul.”

Have you ever put into words the implications that Jesus' resurrection has for you personally?
What are some words you would use?

“We all fall short and that's the beautiful part. Broken, flawed, vulnerable people like you and me, are invited to be the hands and feet of a Jesus who loves us exactly as we are and yet, loves us way too much to let us stay that way.”

If we're loved exactly as we are, then what is our motivation for change?

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

[Romans 3:23 \(CEV\)](#)

"If people only had your life (as the only example to look at) and they were asked the question, 'Has Jesus risen from the dead?' how would they answer? Has he?"

If others could only watch how you spend your time, how you spend your money, what you love, who you love, do you think they would see that Jesus has risen from the dead?

"May you be a 'yes' to the question, 'Has Jesus risen from the dead?'
And may you come to see – may you understand that you are the good news.
You are the gospel."

To technically pull off the visual concept, this entire film was shot in a constructed restroom setting inside a film studio.

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That's how it is and that's how we want it to be.

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