

“REGARDLESS OF WHAT ANYONE MAY PERSONALLY THINK OR BELIEVE ABOUT HIM, JESUS OF NAZARETH HAS BEEN THE DOMINANT FIGURE IN THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CULTURE FOR ALMOST TWENTY CENTURIES.”  
(JAROSLAV PELIKAN, *JESUS THROUGH THE CENTURIES*)

## “The Resurrection of Christ”

1. Mark’s Gospel (Mark 16:1-20)
  - Basic account: 16:1-8
  - First appearance: Mark 16:9-11
  - Second reported appearance: Mark 16:12-13
  - Third reported appearance: Mark 16:14-18
    - Missional theme, which is also present in Luke and Matthew
  - Ascension account: Mark 16:19-20
  
2. Matthew’s Gospel (Matthew 28:1-20)
  - Matt. 27:62-22: posting of the guard
  - Matt. 28:1-10 – the appearance to the women
  - Matt. 28:11-15 – the report of the guards
  - Matt. 28:16-20 – the Great Commission
    - missional theme
    - “All authority”
    - “make disciples” = only imperative
      - Participles: going, baptizing, teaching
  
3. Luke’s gospel (Luke 24:1-53)
  - Luke 24:1-12 – appearance to the women
  - Luke 24:13-35 – Road to Emmaus
  - Luke 24:36-49 – Appearance to disciples
    - 24:25 – missional emphasis: “Great Commission”
    - 24:47 – preach to all nations
    - 24:49 – wait for “power from on high”
  - Luke 24:50-53 – Ascension
    - 24:50 – vicinity of Bethany

4. **Discuss:** Does the diversity within the synoptic resurrection accounts weaken their credibility?

5. A Harmony of the appearances of the Risen Jesus (NIV, p.1586)

- The empty tomb
- To Mary Magdalene in the garden
- To the other women
- To two people on road to Emmaus
- To Peter
- To the ten (Thomas absent) – John’s gospel
- To the eleven – John’s gospel
- By the Sea of Galilee
- To the eleven on a mountain (ascension)

6. The Significance of the Resurrection

- Confirms the identity of Jesus
  - Romans 1:4
  - Acts 2:36
- Validates his sacrifice (forgiveness)
  - Romans 4:25
  - 1 Cor. 15:17
- Demonstrates victory over death
  - Romans 6:9
  - 1 Cor. 15:25f
- Demonstrates victory over Satan
  - John 12:31
  - Col. 2:15
- Promise of eternal life (first fruits)
  - 1 Cor. 15:19
  - 1 Cor. 15:22f
- Establishes hope
  - Romans 8:29f
- Makes our righteousness possible
  - Romans 6:13
  - 1 Cor. 6:14
- Makes a personal relationship with the risen Lord possible
  - John 20:28
  - Phil. 3:10
- Establishes the historical foundation of Christianity
  - 1 Cor. 15:20
  - 1 Cor. 15:3
- Serves as the basis of Christian discipleship (Lord of the Church)
  - Col. 1:18
  - Eph. 1:18-20