

I CAN'T! YOU CAN. PLEASE HELP

JOHN 20: 1-16 | ERIC SIMPSON | APRIL 17, 2022

"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. If it were possible, with some sort of super magnet, to pull out of the history every scrap of metal bearing at least a trace of his name, how much would be left?" – Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan (Yale University)

The resurrection of Jesus is...

➤ RATIONAL

John 20:1-2

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

look = theóreo = gaze, behold, discern

John 20:27-29

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

If your Christian faith is not shot through with thoughtful-reasoning then it won't endure through all that this life brings.

Resource = "Jesus and the Eye Witnesses" by Richard Bauckham

➤ MERCIFUL

John 20:10-14

10 Then the disciples went back to their homes, 11 but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

Mary Magdalene was the first eye-witness to the resurrection.

➤ PERSONAL

John 20:15-16

15 "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

"I had been my whole life a bell, and never knew it until at that moment I was lifted and struck." – Annie Dillard, Pilgrim at Tinker Creek

"Reality is what you run into when you are wrong." – Dallas Willard



Gandalf: *I am looking for someone to share in an adventure that I am arranging, and it's very difficult to find anyone.*

Bilbo: *I should think so—in these parts! We are plain, quiet folk and have no use for adventures. Nasty, disturbing, uncomfortable things! Make you late for dinner.*

Gandalf: *You'll have a tale or two to tell of your own when you come back.*

Bilbo: *Can you promise that I will come back?*

Gandalf: *No. And if you do, you will not be the same.*