

**Introduction: When was the last time you seriously reconsidered something?**

“Reconsider (verb) – to think again about a decision or opinion and decide if you want to change it.”

- Cambridge Dictionary

- Would you seriously reconsider Easter?
- Would you seriously reconsider Jesus?
- Why are we still drawn to and intrigued by Jesus almost 2,000 years later?
- How did this carpenter-turned-rabbi, who lived in an obscure part of the Roman Empire, was ultimately executed as a criminal by Rome at the behest of his own people, revolutionize the world as we know it?

**Jesus’ declaration in revealing who He is:**

*“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

John 11:25-26

Resurrection is a \_\_\_\_\_.

All of Christianity hinges upon the \_\_\_\_\_ event of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

*And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith...If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

1 Corinthians 15:14,19

**5 Foundational facts everyone agrees on about Jesus & resurrection**

1. Jesus was a \_\_\_\_\_.

“Christus, the founder of the name, had undergone the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius, by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilatus, and the pernicious superstition was checked for a moment, only to break out once more, not merely. In Judea, the home of the disease, but in [Rome] itself, where all things horrible or shameful in the world collect and become fashionable.”

- Tacitus [Roman Historian, AD 56-120]

2. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ on a Roman cross and \_\_\_\_\_ in a tomb under Roman guard.

“I think we need have no doubt that given Jesus’ execution by Roman crucifixion, he was truly dead.”

- James Tabor [Former Chair of Religious Studies at UNC, Skeptic]

3. The tomb was \_\_\_\_\_.

“All the strictly historical evidence we have is in favor [of the empty tomb], and those scholars who reject it ought to recognize that they do so on some other ground than that of scientific history.”

- William Wand [Oxford University]

4. His disciples \_\_\_\_\_ He rose from the dead and \_\_\_\_\_ to them.

“It may be taken as historically certain that Peter and the disciples had experiences after Jesus’ death in which Jesus appeared to them as the risen Christ.”

- Gerd Ludemann [German NT Scholar, Atheist]

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the disciples and the \_\_\_\_\_ of skeptics.

“The historical evidence for the resurrection is as good as for almost any event of ancient history.”

- Ian Hutchinson [Professor of Nuclear Science & Engineering at MIT]

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\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

**Question:**

How did this carpenter-turned-rabbi who lived in an obscure part of the Roman empire reshape the world as we know it?

**Answer:**

Resurrection

The first followers of Jesus believed the resurrection carried life-altering significance.

*"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

John 11:25-26

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**Discussion Questions:**

1. Resurrection is personal, it's not a ritual, it's a relationship, it's not religion, it's presence not performance. How does this revelation change how you look at Jesus and Easter?
2. Which piece of the historical evidence Ryan laid out surprised you? How do these facts reaffirm and strengthen your belief in the Jesus' resurrection?
3. How does Jesus' resurrection motivate you to share the Gospel with others? Who in your life do you need to talk to about the Good News of Jesus?