

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is the King Series, Lesson 48

Lesson Title: He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!

Take Home Point: He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Warm-Up:

I subscribe to an astronomy magazine, and I find it interesting to read about recent discoveries and theories. To me it simply confirms that the world was created and sustained by design. Recently, the editor wrote a column in which he was offended because someone asked if he "believed in the Big Bang." "It is not a matter of belief," he countered, "but accepting the clear scientific evidence." I find that splitting hairs. The evidence to which he refers is frequently indirect observations of long-ago events. The observations may be absolutely correct, but he was not there when the event occurred; he is not there now. It is evidence, in the same way judges and juries are presented evidence of events they did not directly witness. So to a very great extent, it truly is a matter of belief in observations and consequences. How is that different from accepting the historical record of Jesus Christ?

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

Observation (What happened?):

Why did Jesus Christ have to die?

What key phrase does Paul use twice to help his readers understand God's plan was at work?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Since it is Christ's death that takes away our sins, why is his resurrection so important?

What is the significance that they placed the body of Jesus in a tomb?

Insight:

If you have ever studied religions other than Christianity, you know the writings of other religions include stories of miracles being performed, of angels or gods delivering messages, of sacrifices and acts of great mercy, wisdom, and love. But there is one fundamental event that separates Jesus Christ from all other teachers, prophets, and religious leaders – his resurrection. It is unique. Other religions may have anecdotes of something similar, but none other takes a God/man, has him killed, puts him in a grave, and then brings him back to life in the sight of hundreds of people. The resurrection was not wishful thinking or storytelling by the 12 disciples to perpetuate a lie. If you read further in 1 Corinthians, you find that Jesus appeared to over 500 people at once! From Matthew 28 we know that Roman soldiers and the Jewish leaders knew he was alive but chose to deny it. That conflict remains to this day. The historical record is on the side of truth. What do you believe?

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Have you accepted the death and resurrection of Jesus to receive forgiveness and eternal life?

Pray for the children in your small group to know Jesus as Savior and Friend.