

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

There has been an effort to deny the Resurrection of Jesus from the very first day that it took place. Actually, that should not surprise us. The Resurrection of the Christ is the victory of victories. It is the fulfillment of why the Son of God came to be a Son of Man. Our whole relationship with the Father in Heaven is predicated on the reality of Jesus' resurrection from earthly death.

The Apostle Paul put it concisely when he wrote to the Christians in Corinth, "... and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins. (1 Cor. 15:17)" If Christ has not risen, then we will not rise. Moreover, if there is no hope of resurrection for us, there cannot be anything more to existence than what this world can offer. Saint Paul writes further in that same letter, "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all. (1 Cor. 15:19)"

The first attempt to discredit the Resurrection was on the day of. Those instructed to guard Jesus' tomb somehow ended up with an empty tomb. Supposedly, they fell asleep, as they reported to their superior, claiming that Jesus' disciples took the body away while they were snoozing. Falling asleep on guard duty (all of the guards at once) is not something for which one is praised. And, so, they added that the body was stolen. But, how did they know, if they were sleeping?

Have you noticed that every year at this time when we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus another concocted story comes out? There is "The Lost Tomb of Jesus" and then there was "The Lost Gospel of Judas." Also, did you notice that the National Geographic funded both? Then, of course, we had The DaVinci Code. All of these, by the way, made lots of money for someone. I trust that not many of us contributed to those funds.

I checked out one of the websites for "The Lost Tomb of Jesus" and found it to be quite blasphemous, - all for the sake of money. It did remind me of Judas. The makers of the so-called documentary are not scientists and, obviously, are not interested in the facts. As one expert put it, why would Jesus' family bury him in a family plot that would have been known to many and then claim that He had risen from the dead? As for "The Lost Gospel of Judas," it does not deserve my time. I wish that I could be grateful to the National Geographic for "finding" all of these "lost" aspects of my Faith. But, of course, I cannot.

We need not only to wonder but also to worry about the timing of these so-called revelations. Getting us to celebrate Spring, the Easter Bunny, new clothes, and beautiful eggs with a greater intensity than Christ's victory over eternal death and our rising with him cannot be an objective of anyone more than Satan who was defeated the night that the guards were asleep.

There is a constant endeavor to have us believe that Jesus was more human than divine. The wonderful reality is that He was both. There was no more of one than the other, as He was one person. The ancient Greeks and Romans wanted their Gods to be like them. Our grace, however, is that the Son of God wants us to be like him.