

INTRODUCTION 引言

Why do you believe certain things to be true? Nowadays, a lot of people believe in the social media simply because a story has been forwarded many times. You trust your family members and friends due to your close relationship with them. Regardless of the source of information, certain things are true whether or not you believe in it. Agree? Things gets complicated when we step into the realm of Christian faith. According to the Bible, Jesus rose from the dead. Do you hear what I just said? According to the Bible, Jesus rose from the dead. God's Word is the foundation of our belief. Some people reject the notion right away, thinking that the Bible is only a story book. We study ancient history but we seldom challenge whether those places, people and events did exist in the past. The Bible actually has more historical copies than any other ancient literature. To date, there are over 5,000 Greek New Testament manuscripts. They contain sections of various books of the Bible. Besides, there are many more copies in Latin and other languages. Scholars compared those texts from different eras and only found minor discrepancies. The Christian faith is open to our examination. We need to pursue with an open and objective mind. Today, we will study the resurrection of Jesus from the Bible. If Jesus did come back to life, then he was not only a great teacher, a wonderful role-model and a famous founder of a religion. He is God. If Jesus did rise from the dead, then what does it mean to you?

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Testimony of the Guards 守衛的見證

We will study the testimonies of three groups of people. First, there were the guards. We will hear the reading from **Matthew 28:1-4** and also **11-15**. It was a Sunday morning, the third day after Jesus was put into a tomb. A few ladies went there at sunrise. We will look at their story later. There was an earthquake and an angel rolled away the stone that blocked Jesus' tomb. The guards were in fear when they saw everything. The Jewish religious leaders worried that Jesus' disciples would steal His body, then made up a story that Jesus came back to life. Therefore, they sent some guards to station outside the tomb. Jesus' body was now gone. The soldiers reported it to the religious leaders right away. Those teachers did not go to the tomb to do an investigation. They did not inform Pilate either. Instead, they bribed the soldiers and asked them to spread a lie that Jesus' disciples stole the body. They realized that Jesus indeed came back to life just as He said. However, they could not face the fact. The cost was too big to pay. First, they had to accept the responsibility for killing the Son of God. Second, they had to forsake their traditional belief and to acknowledge that Jesus is God. Third, people would believe in Jesus rather than the religion they preached. They would lose their social status and the financial gain that came with it. Altogether, it was too much to lose! The guards were no better. They got money and protection from the Jewish leaders. They did not seem to care why a dead criminal could get back to life. Knowing the truth forces us to make a decision. I have met many people who are not ready to receive Jesus. They attend church, study the Bible and agree with the gospel in general. However, they are hesitant about committing themselves to the Lord. Does that describe you as well? Becoming a Christian is not about getting a church membership. You have to surrender

your life to Jesus. Following Jesus comes with a cost. You may have to face opposition from your family members. They will be upset because you abandon your family religion. Perhaps you have to let go of particular lifestyle or ungodly habits. You may earn less money because from now on you have to be honest in your work. But whatever change you have to make, it is well worth it. Eternal life is the biggest blessing we can receive in this life. It is not just about going to heaven when you leave the world. It is also about living this life with a different set of value system. God's approval is much more important than people's acceptance, personal benefits or monetary gain. Indeed there may be hardship. People will despise you because they reject what you believe. But God will protect you and He will help you stand up for Him.

2. Testimony of the Women 婦女的見證

The next group of people who witnessed Jesus' resurrection were some women. Let us hear the reading from **Matthew 28:5-10**. Other gospels tell us that those women brought spices. They wanted to cover the bad smell of a decaying body. They noticed that someone rolled away the stone that sealed the tomb. Suddenly, an angel appeared and told them Jesus had risen. He also showed the women the place where Jesus' body was placed earlier. The remain was no longer there. Then the messenger asked the women to tell the disciples to go to Galilee to meet the resurrected Lord. The ladies still tried to make sense of everything. While they were on their way, Jesus showed up. There was no doubt that the Lord was risen! Jesus calmed their fear. If seeing an angel was shocking enough, how much more unthinkable it would be to see the resurrected Lord! He then repeated the assignment to ask the disciples to see Him. Luke 24:11-12 records the reaction of the disciples after they heard the testimony of the ladies: **11 But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.** Those believers could not believe what they heard. There could be at least two reasons. First, it was hard to believe in the resurrection. No one could survive the torture and the nails. Second, at that time people considered women's testimonies untrustworthy. They were not allowed to testify in court. But Peter had a scientific mind. He together with John went to the tomb to see for themselves. They verified the women's words. They saw the cloth that was used to wrap Jesus' body, but the remain was missing. What did that mean? Jesus later showed Himself to the disciples to restore their faith. For now, let us consider what we can learn from the sisters. First, they used actions to demonstrate their love for the Lord. They prepared a costly perfume. They were not afraid of the guards. They did not know how to move the stone away. They just went there anyway. Today, how do you display your love for Jesus? Do you give Him the best as you serve in ministries, when you schedule your activities and in your money offering? Do you come to church meeting only when it is convenient to you? Second, the women shared their story, even though the disciples did not believe. You cannot predict how people may respond as you share the gospel. Your task is to tell the truth. Your words may not convince people. God will open their hearts. He will give people wisdom to understand. Most importantly, He will humble them and help them realize that they need the Savior.

3. Testimony of the Disciples 門徒的見證

The last group of people who witnessed Jesus' resurrection were the disciples. Their beloved Teacher was killed. Where should they go now? What they experienced contradicted Jesus'

lessons. Where was the Kingdom of God? Where to find eternal life? The disciples were confused in their mind and crushed in their spirit. Now some sisters told them that Jesus was still alive. How could that be? Jesus was merciful to the disciples by appearing to them. Let us listen to [Luke 24:44-49](#). Those men were afraid, just like the ladies did, when they saw Jesus. The Lord proved that it was really Him by eating a piece of fish. Jesus had a few other goals to achieve. First, He told the disciples that His resurrection fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about Him. He was the Messiah. He came not to rebuild the Jewish nation, but to draw people from all nations. Second, Jesus opened their minds and helped them understand the Scriptures. They must use such heavenly wisdom when they shared the gospel. Giving them a new mission was the third thing Jesus wanted to achieve. He tells the disciples in verse 48: **“You are witnesses of these things.”** Those things include: Jesus is the Savior, He died but He rose on the third day, people must repent of their sins and receive Jesus. The utmost privilege to meet with the resurrected Lord came with an important mission. Fourth, Jesus promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come. One purpose for His coming is to give the disciples courage to share the gospel. We see an example in Acts 4. Peter and John were arrested by the religious leaders for healing a crippled man in Jesus’ name and preaching about Jesus. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. He then testified in verse 10: **“Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead – by him this man is standing before you well.”** Peter performed miracles and preached his message in Jesus’ name. He even convicted those leaders for nailing Jesus on the cross. Wow! Did he not know that the same group of people could also send him to the cross? Of course. Peter knew the danger was real. But he also realized that Jesus’ resurrection was real. Everything else – sin, God’s judgment and future glory are also real. Today, Jesus calls us to share the same truth.

CONCLUSION 結論

According to the Bible, Jesus rose from the dead. What does it mean to you? You can act like one of those three groups of people. The guards dared not tell the truth because doing so would cost them everything. The women told what they saw, even though no one believed in their words. The disciples spoke with courage and confidence, because they knew only Jesus could save people. Their testimonies shocked the world. Another historical event also caused revolutionary changes. The movie titled Till is based on that true story. In August 1955, a fourteen-year-old African-American boy named Emmett Till went to visit his relatives in Mississippi. One day, he and a few kids went to a grocery store to buy candies. Till was accused of saying something inappropriate to a Caucasian female owner of the store. A few nights later, her husband and another man abducted Till. They tortured and killed him. The two suspects were arrested, but the jury found them not guilty in court. A year later, the two men admitted what they did in an interview. The incident generated a huge uproar in the civil right movement. Meanwhile, Till’s body was transferred back to his hometown of Chicago. Till’s mom insisted an open-casket at her son’s funeral. She explained: “I want the world to see what they did to my boy.” Today we receive the same mission from our Heavenly Father. He wants the world to know what happened to His Son. But there are some major differences in the two stories. The Till family mourned for a shattered dream. We rejoice over a living hope. Till’s broken body was in the ground. Jesus walked out from the tomb. A boy’s life triggered a social movement. Our Lord’s resurrection ignited a global movement. Today, how does the Easter story change your life? A lot of people are willing to die for what they believe to be true. But are you ready to live for what is true?

INTRODUCTION 引言

你為何相信某些事情是真實的？如今，很多人相信社交媒體，因為一個故事被轉發了很多次。你信任家人和朋友，是基於你與他們有緊密關係。但無論信息來自什麼地方，事情的真實性與你是否相信無關。同意？當我們踏入基督信仰的領域時，事情就變得複雜了。根據聖經，耶穌從死裡復活。你聽到我剛才說的話了嗎？根據聖經，耶穌從死裡復活。神的話語是我們信仰的基礎。有些人馬上就拒絕了這個觀念，認為聖經只是一本故事書。我們研究古代歷史，但我們很少懷疑那些地方、人物和事件過去是否真的存在過。聖經實際上比任何古代文獻有更多的抄本。到目前為止，人們找到 5,000 多份希臘文新約手稿。它們包含不同聖經書卷的章節。此外，還有更多的拉丁文和其他語言抄本。學者們比較了不同時代的這些文本，只發現了細微的差異。基督信仰是我們可以去檢驗的。我們需要以開放和客觀的心態去追求。今天，我們將從聖經中看耶穌的復活。如果耶穌真的復活了，那麼祂不僅是一位偉大的老師、一個了不起的榜樣和一個有名的宗教創辦人。祂是神。如果耶穌真的從死裡復活，那對你來說有什麼含義？

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Testimony of the Guards 守衛的見證

我們會看三組人的見證。首先是守衛。請聽馬太福音 28:1-4 和 11-15。那是一個星期天的早晨，耶穌被埋葬後的第三天。幾位女士在日出時到墳墓那裡。我們稍後會看她們的故事。當時發生了地震，一位天使滾開了擋住耶穌墳墓的石頭。守衛們看到這一切，都極其害怕。猶太宗教領袖擔心耶穌的門徒會偷走祂的身體，然後編造耶穌復活的故事。因此，他們派一些守衛駐守在墓外。現在耶穌的身體不見了。士兵們馬上向宗教領袖報告這件事。那些老師沒有去墳墓做調查。他們也沒有通知彼拉多。相反，他們賄賂士兵並要求他們散佈謊言，說耶穌的門徒偷走了屍體。他們意識到耶穌確實如祂所說的那樣復活了。然而，他們無法面對這個事實。所需要付出的代價太大了。首先，他們必須承擔殺害神的兒子的責任。其次，他們必須放棄傳統信仰，承認耶穌是神。第三，人們會相信耶穌而不是他們所傳揚的宗教。他們會失去自己的社會地位和隨之而來的經濟利益。總而言之，損失太大了！守衛也好不到哪兒去。他們從猶太領袖那裡得到金錢和保護。他們好像不在乎一個死去的罪犯為什麼能起死回生。了解真理迫使我們做出決定。我遇到過許多還沒有準備好接受耶穌的人。他們去教會，學習聖經並且基本上認同福音。然而，他們對將自己交託給主猶豫不決。你也是這樣嗎？成為基督徒不是要登記成為教會成員。你必須將

你的生命交給耶穌。跟隨耶穌是要付出代價的。你可能要面對家人的反對。他們會因為你放棄家庭的信仰而反感。也許你必須放棄某些生活型態或不敬虔的習慣。你可能會賺更少的錢，因為從現在開始你必須誠實地工作。但無論你必須做出什麼改變，都是值得的。永生是我們今生所能得到的最大祝福。這不只是關於你離開世界之後去天堂。這也是關於以一套不同的價值觀念過今生的生活。神的認可比人的認同、個人利益或金錢重要得多。前面的確實會有困難。人們會排擠你，因為他們拒絕你所相信的。但神會保護你，祂也會幫助你在真理中站穩。

2. Testimony of the Women 婦女的見證

另外一群見證耶穌復活的人是一些婦女。讓我們來聽**馬太福音 28:5-10**。其他福音書告訴我們，那些女士帶著香料。她們想要掩蓋屍體腐爛的臭味。她們注意到有人滾開了封墓的石頭。突然，一位天使出現並告訴她們耶穌已經復活了。他還向婦女們展示之前放置耶穌屍體的地方。現在遺體不見了。然後那位使者吩咐婦女們告訴門徒們去加利利迎接復活的主。女士們仍然一頭霧水。她們在路上的時候，耶穌出現了。毫無疑問，主已經復活了！耶穌安撫她們的恐懼。如果看到天使已經足夠震撼，那麼看到復活的主就更不可思議了！然後，耶穌重複了對門徒的要求。路加福音 24:11-12 記載了門徒們聽到女士們的見證後的反應：**11 他們這些話，使徒以為是胡言，就不相信。12 彼得起來，跑到墳墓前，低頭往裡看，見細麻布獨在一處，就回去了，心裡希奇所成的事。**那些信徒簡直不敢相信他們所聽到的。至少有兩個原因。首先，死後復活是難以置信的。沒有人能在酷刑和釘子中生存下來。第二，當時人們認為婦女的見證不可信。她們不被允許出庭作證。但是彼得有科學精神。他和約翰一起去墳墓親自檢查。他們證實了女士們的話。他們看到了用來包裹耶穌身體的布，但遺體卻不見了。那是什麼意思？耶穌後來向門徒顯現，以恢復他們的信心。在目前，讓我們想想我們可以從姐妹們身上學到什麼。首先，她們用行動來表明對主的愛。她們準備了一種昂貴的香膏。她們不怕守衛。她們也不知道如何把石頭挪開。不管怎樣，她們就跑去墳墓。今天，你如何表現你對耶穌的愛？在事奉中，當你安排你的時間表和在你的金錢奉獻中，你是否將最好的獻給主？你只有在有空的時候才來教會聚會嗎？其次，婦女們分享了她們的故事，儘管門徒們並不相信。當你傳福音時，你無法預測別人的反應。你的任務是講解真理。你的話可能無法說服對方。神會打開他們的心門。祂會給人們智慧去理解。最重要的是，祂會使人謙卑，並幫助他們意識到自己需要救主。

3. Testimony of the Disciples 門徒的見證

最後一批見證耶穌復活的人是門徒。他們敬愛的老師被殺了。他們現在應該去哪裡呢？他們的經歷與耶穌的教訓相矛盾。神的國在哪裡？哪裡可以找到永生？門徒們心思混亂，靈裡崩潰。現在有些姐妹告訴她們，耶穌還活著。怎麼可能呢？耶穌憐

憫門徒，向他們顯現。讓我們聽聽路加福音 24:44-49。那些男士們看到耶穌時，就像婦女們一樣害怕。主吃了一塊魚，證明的確是祂。耶穌還有其他幾個目標要實現。首先，祂告訴門徒，祂的復活應驗了舊約關於祂的預言。祂是彌賽亞。祂來不是要重建猶太民族，而是要吸引萬國的人。第二，耶穌打開他們的心，幫助他們明白聖經。他們在分享福音時必須具備這種屬天的智慧。給他們一個新的使命是耶穌想要完成的第三件事。祂在第 48 節告訴門徒：「你們就是這些事的見證。」這些事情包括：耶穌是救主，祂死了但是三天後復活，人們必須認罪悔改並接受耶穌。看到復活的主這個特權伴隨著一項重要的使命。第四，耶穌應許祂的門徒聖靈會來。聖靈來的其中一個目的是賜給門徒勇氣去傳福音。我們在使徒行傳第 4 章看到一個例子。彼得和約翰因奉耶穌的名醫治一個癱腿的人並傳講耶穌而被宗教領袖逮捕。彼得被聖靈充滿。然後他在第 10 節作證：「你們眾人和以色列百姓都當知道，站在你們面前的這人得痊愈是因你們所釘十字架、神叫他從死裡復活的拿撒勒人耶穌基督的名。」彼得行神蹟，奉耶穌的名傳道。他甚至責備那些領袖將耶穌釘在十字架上。哇！他難道不知道同一批人也可以把他送上十字架嗎？他當然知道。彼得明白危險是真實存在的。但他也知到耶穌的復活是真實的。其他一切的事情：罪、神的審判和將來的榮耀也是真實的。今天，耶穌也呼召我們去傳揚同樣的真理。

CONCLUSION 結論

根據聖經，耶穌從死裡復活。這對你來說有什麼含義？你可以像這三類人中的一類那樣做事。守衛們不敢說出真相，因為這樣做會讓他們失去一切。婦女們講述了她們所看到的，儘管沒有人相信她們的話。門徒們帶著勇氣和信心說話，因為他們知道唯有耶穌才能救人。他們的見證震動了世界。另一個歷史事件也引起了革命性的變化。名為《蒂爾》的電影就是根據這個真實故事改編的。1955 年 8 月，14 歲的黑人男孩埃米特·蒂爾 (Emmett Till) 去密西西比州探親。一天，他和幾個小孩去雜貨店買糖果。蒂爾被指控對商店的一位白人女店主說了一些不恰當的話。幾個晚上後，她的丈夫和另一個男士綁架了蒂爾。他們折磨他並殺死了他。兩名嫌疑人被捕，但陪審團在法庭上判定他們無罪。一年後，那兩個人在接受採訪時承認了他們的所作所為。這事件在民權運動中引起了巨大的轟動。與此同時，蒂爾的遺體被運回他在芝加哥的家。蒂爾的媽媽堅持要在她兒子的葬禮上打開棺木。她解釋說：「我想讓全世界看到他們如何對待我的兒子。」今天，我們從天父那裡領受了同樣的使命。祂要讓世界知道發生在祂兒子身上的事。但這兩個故事有一些重大差異。蒂爾一家因為夢想破滅而覺得悲痛。我們卻因為活潑的盼望而喜樂。蒂爾破碎的身體埋在地裡。耶穌從墳墓裡走出來。一個男孩的生命引發了一場社會運動。我們主的復活點燃了一場全球運動。今天，復活節的故事如何改變你的生命？許多人願意為他們所相信的真實事情而死。但你準備好為真理而活嗎？