

# INCONCEIVABLE

EASTER 2018

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## Inconceivable yet true:

- How could a carpenter from a rural backwater, who was only in public for 3 years, with no position or power, unknown outside of Israel, create a lasting movement?
- Why is it that **Nero**, an emperor of Rome, is known primarily for killing Christians and not for being emperor?
- Why is it that **Caesar Augustus**, Rome's first and possibly greatest emperor, is known primarily for being emperor at the time Jesus was born?
- Why, for 300 plus years before there was a **New Testament**, did people put their faith in Jesus?
- How did the **church** survive as a movement, so that today one third of the people in our world claim to follow Jesus?

## All great movements have certain things in common:

- A **charismatic leader with a new or seemingly new message** that appeals to something going on in culture.
- A **message of liberation or revolution.**

## However:

- **Jesus'** message didn't advocate liberation or revolution.
- **Jesus'** message centered on **Jesus**.
  1. He never called on his followers to trust in his **ideas**. He instructed his followers to trust in **him**.
  2. It wasn't his ideas that got him into trouble. **It was who he claimed to be.**

*"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."* John 11:25

*Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father . . ."* John 14:9

## Easter solves the inconceivable mystery.

*"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"*

John 20:2

*It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.*

Luke 24:10-12

*Jesus was raised on the third day... he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time. 1 Cor 15:4-6*

## The message of the early church was: RESURRECTION!

*"You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this."* Acts 3:15

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness** of your **sins**." Acts 2:38*

## Conclusion

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ solves history's mystery.
2. More importantly, the resurrection of Jesus Christ resolves another great mystery: **What do we do about our sin? Our past?**

Notes

*\*All scriptures from NIV unless otherwise noted*