

WHO IS THE MAN OF THE SHROUD?

JOHN 20

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Jesus is risen! The Apostle John experienced the power of Christ's resurrection and believed. Your faith can also be strengthened by seeing good evidence that Jesus rose from the dead. The more you know about Jesus' resurrection, the more you will know about your future resurrection.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

In this message, Dr. Jeremiah Johnston explains how the Shroud of Turin is thought to be the burial cloth of Christ—a natural effect of a supernatural event that testifies to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The point of the message was not to prove the shroud, but to open minds and hearts to encounter Christ, answering His question, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15).

Dr. Johnston shared three observations about the man of the shroud:

1. Serious scholars and experts believe the shroud is authentic.
2. Science today still cannot explain how the image is in the cloth.
3. The evidence most powerfully points to one conclusion: Jesus is the man of the shroud.

How did this message give you a greater appreciation for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 20:1-8

John saw evidence for Jesus' resurrection and believed (v.8). As a chosen disciple and witness to the crucifixion who already believed, how did this experience increase

John's faith? How does this illustrate how we can continue to grow in our faith?

Dr. Johnston explained that the cloth was not a death cloth, but a resurrection cloth—like an “itemized receipt” of Jesus’ love and promise of eternal life. Why is this a hopeful distinction?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 5:8 & COLOSSIANS 2:13-15

When you were at your worst, Jesus died in your place. How can you practically remember the love of Jesus daily?

The crucifixion of Jesus reveals how Jesus bought, purchased, ransomed, and redeemed us (2 Corinthians 5:21). When Jesus cried out, “It is finished” (John 19:30), what did He refer to?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How does historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus increase your faith?

How does learning more about Jesus’ resurrection teach you about your new life in Christ and your future resurrection (John 14:19; Romans 6:4-5)? How would you like to grow in this knowledge?

Are you ready to meet the resurrected Christ? Describe your longing to see Jesus face-to-face (1 Corinthians 13:12; Revelation 1:12-18; 22:3-5). How has this desire increased after hearing this message?

Visit the Shroud of Turin Experience at Harvest:

- **Riverside Campus: July 28-30 from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM**
- **Orange County Campus: August 3 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**
- **Online: “The Shroud of Turin Experience” on Dr. Johnston’s YouTube: Christian Thinkers Society.**

PRAYER

Give thanks that “The Lord is risen indeed” (Luke 24:34). Pray that you will continue to “know Him and the power of His resurrection” (Philippians 3:10-11).