

## Chapter 6

# Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *Name the person who buried Jesus. Why would he be an oddity among Jesus' disciples?*

Joseph of Arimathea donated his own new tomb for Jesus' burial. The Gospels describe him as either a rich man, a member of the Sanhedrin, or both. This was odd because, either way, he was a member of a group (wealthy religious leaders) that Jesus often criticized.

2. *Why were guards placed outside Jesus' tomb?*

The chief priests and Pharisees warned Pilate about Jesus' claim that he would "be killed and on the third day be raised" (Matthew 16:21). They are worried that the disciples would steal the body and claim that Jesus was raised, which would cause problems for them as the religious leaders of Judaism. By including this detail, Matthew is preventing this claim.

3. *What does it mean to say that Jesus was resurrected?*

The Resurrection is the bodily rising of Jesus from the dead on the third day after his death on the cross. He was not simply resuscitated back to the same life he had before; rather, Jesus truly died, passed through and conquered death, and returned to a new and different life. After the Resurrection, he was the same person, but he returned in a glorified body.

4. *How is Jesus different after the Resurrection?*

After the Resurrection, Jesus is the same person, but he returns in a glorified body. Mortal bodies will get old, die, and decay, but a glorified body is eternal and incorruptible. This could explain why some of the disciples found Jesus unrecognizable after his Resurrection.

5. *Give three brief reasons that support the Resurrection as an actual historical event.*

- There were many witnesses who testified to the Resurrection.
- The Gospels named women as primary witnesses. They would only do this if it really happened because women were not considered reliable witnesses.
- Jesus' followers go from being too afraid to acknowledge knowing Jesus to publicly proclaiming their faith in him, despite knowing that it could easily lead to their own persecution and death.

6. *What did the two disciples on the road to Emmaus experience as they walked with Jesus? When did they finally recognize him?*

Through their conversation, Jesus shone some light on the teachings of the prophets and interpreted the Scriptures explaining why the Messiah should suffer. The disciples were captivated by Jesus and felt their hearts "burning" within them, and invited him to stay with them. When Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

7. *After the Resurrection, Jesus asks Peter three times if Peter loves him, and Peter affirms his love for Jesus all three times. What pre-Resurrection event does this exchange address and heal?*

After his arrest, being Jesus' disciples made them suspects as well, and the Gospels record their fears of being associated with him. When confronted about being Jesus' companion, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times.



8. *With what event is Jesus' Ascension closely tied and why?*

The Ascension is closely tied to Pentecost because, before Jesus ascended into Heaven, he promised to send the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the fiftieth day following Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, Mary, and the disciples. Jesus promised to be with us forever, and the sending of the Holy Spirit is part of the fulfillment of that promise.

9. *What was the Jewish understanding of Heaven and Earth, and how might that help our understanding of Jesus' Ascension?*

The Jewish People at that time understood God to be in the heavens above the sky, so it was appropriate for Jesus to be lifted "up." Unlike other religions of the time, they didn't believe that Heaven and Earth were two separate entities. They believed that the boundaries of Heaven and Earth sometimes crossed over one another: angels appear on Earth and God's presence was in the Temple. In the New Testament, God is most present in Jesus, whose Ascension brings Earth to Heaven.

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