

A week is a long time!

“Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord”

John 20 v 19b-20 NIV

What has happened this last week? After an amazing day last week we have had a roller coaster of a time. We thought that he would be king, he was riding on the back of a donkey like the world was at his feet. Things went wrong as one of his friends betrayed him for gold coins. How could a friend do that? He was arrested. The crowd acted like judge and jury as they turned against him. He was accused of blasphemy, put on trial and condemned to death in a matter of hours.

The next thing that I knew was that he had died nailed to a cross. A crown of thorns was placed upon his head. He suffered a torturous death, suffocating. Today I saw three ladies and rumour has it that they have seen him.....alive.

How am I supposed to get my head around this? He was dead and now he is alive. That cannot have happened.

What if he didn't really die?

I don't believe that, he was virtually flogged to death before he was hung on the cross, he was definitely dead when they took him down from the cross. They put him in a tomb, for three days. There was no one there to look after him and give him food and water, he would have died from thirst after all of that time. I don't believe that he didn't die.

If he was dead on the cross then this person who is alive must be someone different. Yes that seems the most logical solution until I heard that you can see the marks on his hands and his feet where the nails went in, it has to be the same person.

How can I work this out? I only have one solution to this, this man is magical or this man is God. Let's just think about what he did in his life. I heard that he turned water into wine....yeah yeah yeah.. simple trick anyone can do that. You get your guests so drunk that they don't notice that it is water,.... So he is a magician.

Let's think of what else he did. There was a blind man called Bartimeaus. He got his sight back. I know that man was blind, he had been blind since birth. We used to torment him, there is no way that he could see us or he would have dodged our fists. Bartimeaus getting his sight back was not the work of a magician.

Then there was his friend, Lazarus, he was dead, he had been dead for days. His sisters Martha and Mary were so upset, they knew that this man could have healed him but he turned up too late. He astounded everyone by bringing him back to life. That isn't the work of a magician either.

This man is far more special than that. He has defied the laws of nature. He not only brought back another man to life but he brought himself back to life. Only God can do that. This man must be God here on earth. God must have taken on a human earthly body and lived with fellow human beings. That is incomprehensible, why would God do that? Surely he doesn't need to. God stuck up there in heaven, surely he doesn't really want to meddle with what is going on here on earth.

Why would come down from heaven? Does God like us human beings? Does God care for us human beings? I thought that he was a distant being who wanted us to sacrifice our animals for him but if he has come down to earth that makes things very different. That means that he does care about us and like us and maybe he even loves us.

Yes, that must be it. God loves us. He came down to earth and he died and rose again. It is as if he sacrificed himself. Did he sacrifice himself for us? What have we done for a God to do that for us?

This very strange week has ended, a triumphant entry to Jerusalem, a betrayal, a trial, a crucifixion followed by a resurrection, my conclusion is that only God could do all of that.

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