

### Three Minute Theologies – Resurrection

During Holy Week, we remember Jesus last days among us, and look forward to celebrating that: 'The Lord is Risen'. What we refer to as The Resurrection.

Resurrection is not the same as resuscitation. Jesus resuscitated a number of people who had ceased to breathe, as did some of his closest disciples later. The raising of Lazarus being the most dramatic, him having been deceased for four days or more. Indeed in our own day resuscitation has become a skilled part of medicine, albeit one which needs carrying out very quickly. Resurrection is more fundamental, nothing less than a complete overhaul.

In Jesus' day the Pharisees were among those who believed in the concept of Resurrection, whilst other groups did not. Resurrection the reuniting of a humans spirit with a new physical body. What sort of 'body' this was going to be, was open for debate, being too far beyond our human understanding. It was within this understanding that Jesus affirmed how the resurrection would begin with God's own Messiah. The rest of humanity would follow, in God's good time. The Prophet Isaiahs vision of a new heaven and earth, as well as that of the other prophets, and Jesus himself, point towards the Resurrection happening at the end of time. That day when God will fully renew the face of both Heaven and Earth.

So what will this Resurrection body be like? According to the Apostle Paul it will be a spiritual body. An imperishable body, no longer subject to ageing and decay. Jesus own resurrection provides us with more valuable clues. He was different and it took some time for others time to know it was him. Yet once people got beyond their amazement they recognised him as the Jesus they



knew. His new life was a continuation, a new chapter within the same story. We can know this because he still carried the scars of his suffering, although they were now healed.

A renewed body, free from decay but uniquely us. Able to renew relationships with loved ones, free from any of the pain and tears which are part of the current creation. Now that is something to really hope for. And for a loving all-knowing God, this poses no difficulty. Our creator, who knows each of our unique DNA codes, will tweak them as necessary. For us, and the ones we miss, this is indeed good news. The very foundation of Christian hope!