

Christ is Risen! Indeed. Here are puzzles for you.

A man lives on the 10th floor of a building. Every day he takes the elevator down to the ground floor in order to leave the building. When he returns home he takes the elevator to the 6th floor and walks up the stairs to reach his apartment on the tenth floor. He does this everyday, unless it's raining. If it rains, he rides the elevator all the way to the 10th floor. Why does he do this?

Here is another one. Anthony and Cleopatra are lying dead on the floor of a villa in Egypt. The window was open and there is water and glass all over the floor. There are no marks on either Anthony or Cleopatra, and they were not poisoned. How did they die?

Did you ever play those kind of mind games? I think some of you may spend hours in order to figure them out. So, I do not want you to figure these puzzles out the rest of this morning.

In the 1st case, the 6th floor was the highest button he could reach on the elevator control panel. He was a short man. When it rained, he had his umbrella with him, so he could use the umbrella to punch the button that indicated his floor.

In the 2nd situation, it might help you to know Anthony and Cleopatra are fish. The dog, Brutus, knocked over the fish bowl, which broke and spilled water all over the floor.

It is called "Lateral Thinking," which is a manner of solving problems using an indirect and creative approach.

Let's try one more. On Friday night, a man dies. He's buried that same night. On Sunday morning, His friends arrive at the grave, only to discover His body is gone. What happened?

The men said to them, "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised." God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is Risen!

One of the problems of Jesus' resurrection is that some people try to make sense out of everything that happened. They try to understand exactly how Jesus could die and then come back to life again. Let me tell you something. It is a secret. None of it makes any sense. Yet, there is the only thing I have for you. It is the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It can be easy to disbelieve who Jesus is, just because we don't see the physical evidence of His resurrection. We weren't there, so how can we prove there was a resurrection? Physically, we can't. We can come up with lots of excuses for not believing in the resurrection.

Charles Colson, the former counsel of President Nixon, a convicted conspirator in the Watergate scandal, wrote, "I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Everyone was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world-and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."

Luke 24:11 describes that the women told the disciples what happened, but the story sounded like nonsense, so they didn't believe it. Even though they lived with Jesus for 3 years, they still didn't get it. The fact that Jesus was resurrected blew their analytical thinking straight out the window. It was reality for the disciples and it is reality for us. Jesus had risen from the dead. That's the good news.

With Jesus' resurrection, we come to realize the bonds of death have been broken forever. We understand that this life is not all there is. There is more that is to come. We have eternal life.

The struggles we endured in this life are over, but they were not in vain, because we know in heaven there will be no more tears, no more pain, no more suffering, no more hunger, no cold, or hot weather. None of that will happen, instead, you will be feasting and drinking, you will be whole and healthy.

Dear friends, that is the Great News of Easter. Death has been swallowed up by God forever.

The resurrection will change your life, but only if you personally trust the risen Jesus as your Lord, your Forgiver, Shepherd and Leader.

Make the claim today that Jesus is yours. He is Lord and you all praise God for your blessing in Jesus. Embrace the Risen Christ, celebrate the new life He offers you, so that you have the promise of Eternal life in the future and Eternal life today.