

Are We Honoring Jesus as Lord – Part 15: Luke 24:1-12 ESV

The Few, the Saved, the Believers!

Services: Sunday, March 27, 2016 at 7:00 & 10:45

Church Year: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Monday Services resume on Monday, April 4 at 7 PM

Introduction: Dear friends in Jesus Christ: Try to imagine being one of Jesus' apostles:

- You ▶heard His teaching, ▶saw His miracles, and ▶were part of the great Palm Sunday celebration, so you were convinced that Jesus was ▶the promised Son of David; ▶the Messiah; ▶the Anointed One!
- But then you also saw Him ▶arrested, ▶mistreated, ▶crucified, and ▶dead! When His final breath came out, *your final thread of hope was broken.*

Now what? The apostles were afraid and hiding; they may have reasoned like this: Since they killed our leader, *they might kill us too!* Now we go to our text in Luke chapter 24, as we pickup with what happened *just after sunrise on that very first Easter Sunday.*

1. **The Setting**: ¹ **But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, [a group of women who trusted in Jesus] went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared [for His proper burial].**
 - a. What had Jesus communicated multiple times?
“...we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be

mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise” (Luke 18:31-33 ESV).

So the apostles certainly heard it, but they either ♦forgot it or ♦just didn't believe what Jesus said! What about us...

- b. Do we really believe what Jesus said about ♦who He is – *God in human flesh*, ♦what He did – *take away all sins*, and ♦how He is *the only way to heaven*? When we really believe such things, then ♦He will be our all in all and ♦our lives will revolve around Him! Is that true for you? If so, *I praise the Lord*; if not, *I challenge you to repent!*

2. **The Shocking Discovery – Jesus' Body Is Gone:** ² **And [the group of women who trusted in Jesus] found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.**

- a. Can you imagine their distress? All their hope was in Jesus; then, *suddenly*, He died a horrible death! Then, *to make things even worse*, His body was gone! Things can also happen in our lives that are shocking and unexpected, *but God is never surprised*. He invites us to trust in Him!
- b. What could have brought them peace? **To believe the impossible:** Jesus had said, “They will kill me, *but on the third day I will rise!*” It is natural to focus on the moment – *Jesus' death*, rather than His promise – *I will rise!* What are we focused on today: ♦Jesus – *and the things of eternal life* or ♦self – *and the things of this temporary world?*

3. **The Heavenly Messengers – *Jesus Is Risen***: ⁴ While they were perplexed about [*Jesus' missing body*], behold, two men [*angels*] stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to [*those women*], “Why do you seek the living [One] among the dead [ones]? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

- a. Did they need a reminder? Apparently they did; they were so focused on *Jesus' death* that they forgot all about *His promised resurrection!*
- b. Do we need reminders? Yes! God wants us to benefit now and always, so He calls us to spend time every day in His Holy Word!
 - i. Those who hear it are reminded about
 - ♦ their sin, ♦ Jesus' sin-removing work, and
 - ♦ Jesus' will for their lives!
 - ii. Those who do not hear it forget about
 - ♦ the terrible reality of sin, ♦ how much God loved them through Jesus, and
 - ♦ Jesus' will for their lives!

4. **The Hearing – *But No Believing***: ⁸ And [the women] remembered [Jesus'] words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest [of Jesus' faithful followers]. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told

these things to the apostles, ¹¹ **but** [the words they told] **seemed to** [the apostles] **an idle tale, and they did not believe them.**

- a. Was their *common sense* greater than their *faith*? The apostles knew Jesus had died, so, *according to common sense, regardless of what He said, He must be dead!*
- b. What about us, do we believe the impossible? The Bible says that all good people, *who die without Jesus*, will be punished forever. The Bible also says all bad people, *who die with Jesus*, will go to paradise. Do you believe such things?

5. **The Desire – To Learn More:** ¹² **But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.**

- a. How did Peter take action? He didn't wait for Jesus to appear to him; instead, *he ran to the tomb to check things out for himself!*
- b. How are you going to take action? Are you going to look into this whole Jesus' thing and get to the truth, **or** are you going to ♦keep being good, ♦take your chances, and ♦hope things work out!

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dear Jesus, You came, lived, died, and rose for us – **T.Y.** Dear Holy Spirit, enable us to set aside human reason, embrace Jesus as our Savior, and have daily lives that revolve around Him! In Jesus' holy name, we pray.

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