

## LUKE 24:1-12

### "Remember His Words"

The cornerstone of Christianity is found in the resurrection of J.C. W/out the resurrection Christianity instantly crumbles. It's that critical: remove the resurrection & our faith is immediately destroyed. Paul the apostle taught that the resurrection of J.C. is in fact the very heart of the gospel; you take the resurrection, you take the heart out of the gospel & leave the message lying lifeless on the floor.

It's what separates Christianity from every other religion in the world. Religions may have strong ethical systems, various concepts about life, about what happens after life & claim to have certain holy writings. But only Christianity has God who became a Man, as a Man literally died for His people, paying the purchase price for their sins through the shedding of His blood & was raised bodily 3 days later in power & glory never to die again. Rev 1:18, *"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen."*<sup>1</sup> That's why the fact of the matter is that Christianity is not a religion at all, but rather it's a relationship w/a Living Person, the Living One; J.C. (The 1st fruits of the resurrection).

So then if Jesus didn't rise from the dead we're lost in our sins, we're w/out hope being w/out God in the world & we're to be pitied above all men because we really believe this stuff & give our lives for the reality of this hope. The resurrection becomes God's receipt saying "Paid in full" to the price that Jesus paid for the sin of the world. If God doesn't raise Jesus from the dead then He's saying that His sacrifice was insufficient & the world is still in sin.

Perhaps you remember from your core study last week that the very last question was, "Why is the death of Jesus so important?" Why is it important to realize that He did in fact die, that He wasn't simply unconscious & somehow He revived in the tomb? Well, #1 Because the bible had prophesied that Messiah, the Christ, would die. *"And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death,"*<sup>2</sup> Now you remember that Peter was a witness to all of this stuff, he seen Jesus on the Mt of Transfiguration, he saw Him radiating in glory, the whole thing. Yet he said in his epistle that a better, a more credible witness than even his own eyewitness account was the more sure word of prophecy (2 Pet 1:19 KJV).

What that means is that God's word is the final authority.

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<sup>1</sup> The New King James Version. 1982 (Re 1:18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> The New King James Version. 1982 (Is 53:9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Even what I see w/my eyes is to be cast out if it doesn't line up w/the written revelation of the word of God. So why was the death of Jesus so important? #1 Prophecy had foretold of it, #2 Jesus Himself said it would happen, we'll see it brought to our attention again today. Over & over again Jesus said He would be put to death & that He would rise again from the dead. So if He didn't die #1 The word of God is found fallible, #2 Jesus is found a liar (& as such not perfect but in fact a sinner & an insufficient sacrifice) & #3 w/out His death there's no resurrection & w/out His resurrection we can't be saved. It's found in 1 Cor Ch 15, "For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!"<sup>3</sup>

But here's the good news, Jesus *did* rise from the dead! We enter Luke 24 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Perhaps you remember that it was a rush job on Friday afternoon/evening getting the body of Jesus off the cross & into the tomb. Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus did their best to wrap Him in linen w/a few spices & get Him in the tomb before the sunset & it was the Sabbath, but the ladies followed them so that they would know where His body was laid & on Sunday morning they would return & attend to His body appropriately.

Now Jesus had told them that He would rise again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, it should've been standing room only outside that tomb on that morning. You talk about an Easter "Son-rise" service! Bring your unsaved friends & family! Instead the disciples were in hiding, they were hopeless, they were depressed & disillusioned. They had zero expectation, zero anticipation of His resurrection...

Now after the fact they were *reminded* of His words, they *remembered* His words & it changed their lives forever, they went forth in power & the world was forever changed. Here's my point, so often rather than going forth in the power of the resurrection we find ourselves staying at home (literally) when we ought to be rejoicing w/our brothers & sisters in the Lord. We find ourselves in hiding, drawing back when the Lord has prompted us to do something. Or we find ourselves feeling hopeless in the midst of some struggle or suffering...what's the key to overcoming these obstacles? Remember His words, how often we lose sight of the power of the word of God to change our lives as well as the lives of those around us...notice.

**Vs 1**

So check it out; they weren't expecting to find an empty tomb.

<sup>3</sup> The New King James Version. 1982 (1 Co 15:16-17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

You don't take spices to a tomb to cover the body in, if you don't expect a body to be there. But hey, at least they went right? The women that followed the Lord were the last at the cross & the 1<sup>st</sup> at the tomb. They had it in their heart to honor their Lord, yet as loving & lovely as their intentions were, they were hopeless. They had been left w/the sense of deep despair & the aching awareness of the emptiness of life.

Think it through this is the picture of all of mankind apart from the resurrection. If the record closed w/the cross & the tomb then we'd all be left hopeless, depressed, despairing and painfully aware of the emptiness of life. Our life would be nothing more than a brief experience of sorrows & pain swallowed up by endless nothingness w/worse to follow... But praise God the tomb wasn't the end, the resurrection of Jesus would transform their lives & it transforms & vitalizes our lives as well. A filled tomb makes for an empty life, but an empty tomb means a life that can be forgiven of sin, filled w/the fullness of God & the joy of the Lord. Outside of Christ we're w/out hope, but in Christ life has purpose & meaning both now & forever.

Ok, quick side note, every now & then people want to know why we go to church on Sunday. Well the root of it lies right here. Because it was on Sunday that our Lord rose from the dead conquering sin & death; we worship on Sunday out of honor & to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Now we appreciate these ladies & their zeal to get to the tomb early, but they had a problem. The stone had been rolled in front of the tomb & it had been sealed by the Romans. They were headed to the tomb but they had no idea how they were going to remove the stone (Mark 16:3). The door to the tomb was made of a heavy, circular shaped stone, running in a groove & settled down in a channel. It would take several strong men to budge this thing; they didn't know what they were going to do because that presented a problem. But when they got there, check it out...

### Vs 2-3

Here's what I find interesting (outside of the obvious, that Jesus wasn't there). All these ladies could think about was the insurmountable problem that faced them in the removing of that stone. Yet for all their worry, by the time they got there it was already rolled away, God had it under control. The problem was solved before they ever showed up on the scene.

This seems so typical of us & the things that consume or so often worry us.

We're up against what seems to be insurmountable odds, we're not sure how it could work out or what can be done about it. But when it comes time to confront it God has it already taken care of by means of which we knew nothing about.

What seemed to be their largest obstacle (that stone). Was rolled away when they got there. *Not* so that Jesus could get out, in His resurrection body He walked through walls, appeared & disappeared from people's sight. It was rolled away so that *they could get in!* So that they could see w/their eyes that Jesus wasn't there, but that He'd risen from the dead.

Vs 4-8

Evidently they had forgotten His words even though Jesus had told them again & again. Yet what a difference it made in their lives to have His words called to remembrance. The empty tomb in & of itself didn't change them, it perplexed them (Vs 4). The words of the angels didn't change their hearts, but the *words of the Lord* (the words that are spirit & life) brought both a cheer *to* & a change *in* their hearts/lives...

*Because of a change in circumstance, previously forgotten words take on a fresh meaning... Are you hearing me? Previously forgotten words, take on a fresh meaning; there's a depth, a dimension to them that previously (though they'd respected them) wasn't real to them but now that circumstances have changed they're resonating in them.* That's so often the way it is. I would encourage you parents, perhaps you have a wayward child, but you took the time to invest God's word into their lives along the way. They seem to have forgotten that, but when circumstances change, the previously forgotten words of the Lord can take on a fresh meaning & change their life forever.

*They look at the tomb, go inside the tomb but Jesus isn't there, they're all confused. Suddenly these 2 angels are there & in essence they rebuke the ladies, almost seemingly surprised that they're even there. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"* Then come 7 of the greatest words ever communicated from an angel to mankind, "He is not here, but is risen!" "Hey, Jesus told you He wouldn't be here, remember? So why are you here looking for Him whom lives among the dead? He is risen!"

What a great question for mankind to consider today. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" *People looking for life, for meaning in dead religious traditionalism, in formalism, substitutes of the flesh; they look for wisdom & the meaning of life from men who are dead as opposed to the living God who defeated death in the person of J.C. You'll never find life in the catacombs of religion, or the tombs of philosophy.*

Life isn't found in a party, it's in a Person, the Person of J.C. who was dead but now lives & is alive forevermore! People go to mediums to seek advice on life from the dead; the bible says "Don't seek the dead on behalf of the living" (Is 8:19). You want advice on life, go to the risen Lord, the Living God.

The angels say, "Remember what He said to you? 'That the Son of Man *must* (key word) be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified & the 3<sup>rd</sup> day rise again.'"

The angels heard Him say it, they knew the ladies heard Him say it, so they're all, "Why are you so surprised that He's not here? He told you He wouldn't be."

### Vs 9-11

The 1<sup>st</sup> skeptics of the resurrection? The apostles themselves! They thought these ladies had lost their minds. Where it says that their words seemed to them "idle tales" it's speaking of the absent minded babblings of someone deranged w/fever.

These women in essence become the 1<sup>st</sup> evangelists to share the truth of the resurrection & their met w/criticism, skepticism & sarcasm (& that from our Lord's closest followers)! So don't be discouraged when you're all on fire & sharing the hope of the resurrection of J.C. & people don't immediately jump on it like you've brought them the hope they've always been looking for...

These women had seen the evidence w/their eyes, yet they're seeing how people would typically respond w/out 1<sup>st</sup> hand evidence themselves. The idea of walking by faith in a risen Lord whom you've never seen is not a natural transition; it's a supernatural work of the Spirit of God. But here's the downside of unbelief, instead of receiving the joy of the Lord & rejoicing in hope, they spent a longer time in the darkness of despair than what was necessary.

The words of the resurrection seemed like insanity to them. The question that confronts us this morning is how do they sound to you? Like words to mock, or make fun of? Or are they words of hope, excitement, forgiveness & new life?

Here's something else I want to point out to you. These women were the last at the cross, the 1<sup>st</sup> at the tomb, the 1<sup>st</sup> to hear the news of the resurrected Christ, the 1<sup>st</sup> to see the risen Lord & the 1<sup>st</sup> to share the news that Jesus was alive. But guess what they weren't? They weren't the most educated out of the group, they weren't the most learned in the scriptures in the group, they hadn't spent more time w/Jesus than anyone else in the group. Why do I point that out?

Because often times people can get caught in this trap of feeling inadequate & ill equipped to share the good news of the resurrection of J.C. They feel like they haven't been a believer long enough, they're not altogether certain of everything the bible says, they need to go to bible college or at least be in church for a # of years. Then once they feel as though they've accumulated enough knowledge, enough insight perhaps then they'll share. Listen, if you're waiting until you feel as though you know enough you'll never say a thing... I've been walking w/the Lord for just over 20 yrs, I've been teaching the word of God what will be 15 yrs around Nov this yr. I feel as though I have about an intermediate working knowledge of the word of God. There is so much there, we will study it throughout the entirety of our lives & still not have it all.

The time to share is when the resurrection is made real to you! If you know that Jesus was crucified, that He died, that He was in a tomb for 3 days & on that 3<sup>rd</sup> day He rose again & that news has changed your life, then you are qualified to share! The message was, "Go, & tell the others" "Get the word out! Jesus is alive!" Besides the more ill equipped you feel the more glory God gets from your life, that's the way He likes to roll. He uses the weak to confound the strong, the foolish to confound the wise, so that no flesh will glory in His sight but as it is written let him who glories, glory in the Lord!

So these ladies are trying to convince the guys, the guys are telling them that they're out of their minds...check it out.

### Vs 12

In John's gospel we discover that John ran to the tomb w/him (beat him) but when he got there he stopped, stooped & looked in. Peter (in classic fashion) just burst into the tomb to check out the situation. Now when John saw this he believed, the dots connected for him. Because what they found were the linen cloths lying in the same shape & form as though someone had been wrapped in them but just flat, w/no body in them. In other words there was no struggle to escaped the bandages, the wrappings, the body had just passed right through it.

The cloth that had covered His face had been folded neatly & put in another place. Peter's kind of freakin out... "Man, what happened here?" He's thinking about it, trying to do the math & add it up. "Where's the Lord?"

He wasn't there, He'd risen... God had accepted His sacrifice, He'd conquered death & assured us life everlasting.

Peter was marveling at what had happened. What *had happened*? When Jesus rose from the dead God (as we mentioned last week concerning the rending of the veil) disannulled the need for priests, altars, sacrifices or temples made by man. **God no longer dwells in temples made by man. Now (through the power of the resurrection) when you believe in & receive J.C. God lives in you. You are His temple, you are His dwelling place... John 17:23 Jesus said, I in them & You in Me that we might be made perfect in one.**

“Remember His Words” that He might renew & refresh & refocus your life... Amen?  
Amen.

#### Prayer Points:

Father even as you sent these Your apostles forth in the power of the resurrection through faith in Your Son help us now to carry that torch & to continue moving forward in the power of the resurrection promoting the good news of forgiveness of sins & new life in Christ. Keep us from seeking life through the means of dead religion or formalism, rules or self imposed regulations, but that we remember Your words Jesus & be strengthened in faith & renewed in zeal. Jesus You have conquered death, & we give You Praise.

The bible is clear that Jesus has conquered death, not only for Himself as the 1<sup>st</sup> fruits of the resurrection but also for all who believe in Him. **If you don't know Jesus than death reigns in you, but you can be set free from the power of death, be forgiven of your sin & find life in Christ through simple faith in His death & His resurrection on your behalf.** Jesus was delivered into the hands of sinful men, crucified & the 3<sup>rd</sup> day He rose again. Reconciled to God through His death, saved by His life... The question is; do you believe it?