

THE TOMB DEMANDS AN ANSWER | LUKE 24:1-12 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 10/11/26

I. The Stone Removed (1-3) | II. The Savior Risen (4-8) | III. The Saints Response (9-12)

INTRO: There are **Certain Truths** in life that simply **CANNOT BE IGNORED!** – And there is perhaps no greater truth confronting humanity than the **Empty Tomb of Jesus Christ**. / Luke 23 ended with **Jesus DEAD AND BURIED...** **Joseph of Arimathea** took His body down from the Cross, **the Women** watched where He was laid, **the Stone** was placed over the entrance; *“And they [all] rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment”* (23:56).

- For those disciples, **everything Seemed Finished**; Their Teacher was dead, their Messiah had been crucified, their Hope appeared buried inside a TOMB.
- But Luke 24 tells us that **“A NEW DAY”** had come... a **GLORIOUS DAY!** – In Fact, Christianity ultimately stands or falls upon what happened that morning: **Jesus Rose from the Grave!**

Paul, would later explain the importance of that event: *“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!”* (1 Cor 15:17). – If Jesus remained dead—There is **no Gospel...** There is **no Forgiveness...** There is **no Eternal life**. **There is no Christian HOPE!**

- Paul goes on to declare: *“But NOW Christ IS risen from the dead...”* (1 Cor 15:20). – **AND THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING!** – His resurrection **Confirms** His identity > His resurrection **Validates** His words > His resurrection **Proves** His victory over death!

But the resurrection also confronts every one of us with a personal question: **WHO IS JESUS CHRIST TO YOU?** As we examine our text today, we'll discover why **THE TOMB DEMANDS AN ANSWER!**

I. THE STONE REMOVED (24:1-3) — READ: *“Now on the first day of the week...”*

A. The Women Returned (1): These devoted women had witnessed Jesus' death. **THEY CAME PREPARED FOR A BURIAL, NOT A RESURRECTION!**

1. They were not bringing breakfast; they were bringing **BURIAL SPICES!** – (Mark 16:1) identifies **Mary Magdalene**, **Mary** the mother of James, and **Salome** as *coming to anoint Him*.
2. Their love was sincere— **BUT THEIR EXPECTATION WAS WRONG!** – Jesus had already explained what would happen: *“The Son of Man must suffer many things... and be killed, and be raised the third day.”* (Luke 9:22) – *They expected to find His body—but what they discovered would change everything!*

B. The Stone Was Removed (2): According to (Mark 16:3), the women wondered, *“Who will roll away the stone...for us?”* **They faced a problem they couldn't solve!**

1. **The Tomb Was Secured** — The stone was sealed and guards were posted (Matt 27:66).
2. **The Stone Was Removed** — An angel rolled it away (Matt 28:2).
 - But understand this: **Jesus didn't need the stone removed to get OUT!**
 - (John 20:19) shows the risen Christ appearing among His disciples **behind locked doors!**

P/A: THE STONE WAS ROLLED AWAY SO THE WITNESSES COULD LOOK IN! – *God Opened the Tomb* so they could see the evidence of the resurrection.

C. The Body Was Missing (3): *Luke is very deliberate.* They went inside, they **Examined the Tomb**, and—**THERE WAS NO BODY!**

1. These women knew where Jesus had been buried; (**Luke 23:55**) specifically tells us: They... *"...observed the tomb and how His body was laid."* > They were not at the wrong tomb. **Jesus had Truly Died and had Truly Been Buried.** – And now— **JESUS' BODY WAS GONE!** – Notice also Luke's language: *"The body of THE LORD JESUS."*
2. Luke reminds us that *"The ONE"* placed inside that tomb was MORE than a crucified man... **HE IS LORD!** – (**Acts 2:36**) says, *"God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*
 - **The EMPTY TOMB confronts us with the Claims Jesus made about Himself!** – In (**John 8:58**) Jesus said: *"Before Abraham was, I AM."* – In (**John 11:25**) *"I AM the resurrection and the life."*
 - **The EMPTY TOMB forces us to deal seriously with those claims!** – If Jesus is **RISEN... HE IS NOT SIMPLY SOMEONE TO ADMIRE** > He is the Son of God to be **BELIEVED** > He is Savior to be **RECEIVED** > He is Lord to be **OBEYED!**

SEGUE: The **EMPTY TOMB** still raises a question: **WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS?** The removed stone provided the evidence... Now, **God sends messengers** to explain what actually happened...

II. THE SAVIOR RISEN (24:4-8) — **READ:** Luke records that these women became **GREATLY PERPLEXED** at the missing body. As they considered the whereabouts and possibilities; we are told that **TWO MEN** appeared to them, and the women bowed in fear. (*obv. Caused by their shining appearance*)

A. The Messengers Appeared (4-5a): (**Matt 28:30**) tells us of one of them: *His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.* – (**Mark 16:5**) informs us of the other, he was: *a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side...* **These were ANGELS,** sent with a message:

- Re: **ANGELS,** (**Heb 1:14**) says, *"Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"* – *At such a perplexing moment they were sent to bring clarity...*

B. The Messengers Present a Question (5b): *"Why do you seek the Living among the dead?"* – Their question hints of the Glorious Reality of the **RESURRECTION!**

- The women *"Searched Among the Dead"* —but Jesus is **THE LIVING ONE!** – He is Not merely a memory or a message that survived—**He is ALIVE!** – (**Rev 1:18**) *"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore."* – *Hope in a Risen Savior is exactly what mankind needs!*

P/A: Many people search for lasting hope *"in things"* that cannot provide it. – But **Real Hope** is **NOT** found in possessions, achievements, or circumstances... It is found in **THE LIVING SAVIOR!**

C. The Messengers Announcement (6a): *"HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN!"* – **Matthew** provides more insight; *But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified."* ⁶ *He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay* (**Matt 28:5-6**). – The Angel's Challenge is actually for all mankind to investigate...

1. **Re-Examine the Tomb and See for yourself!** – Jesus did not rise merely as a Spirit, Symbol, or Memory: **He Rose Bodily!** – The Empty Tomb and Eyewitness Testimony were carefully documented, making His resurrection a **Historical Reality** and a **Victorious Declaration that Death was Defeated!**

2. The REASON Why Was the Tomb Empty? – (Psalm 16:10) foretold that God's Holy One would NOT remain in the grave. – Peter later declared in (Acts 2:24): “Whom God raised up...because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”

- I LOVE THAT! Death didn't just FAIL to hold Jesus... **DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM!**
- The Cross paid the price; the Empty Tomb proclaimed the victory! – Jesus didn't escape death—**HE CONQUERED IT!**
- And understand this: THE RESURRECTION WAS ALWAYS GOD'S PLAN—not an afterthought!

D. The Words of Jesus Recalled (6b-7): The angels remind the women of Jesus' earlier prediction.

– His suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection were all part of God's redemptive plan. Notice the word **“MUST.”** – The events were not accidents or interruptions; they were NECESSARY for the fulfillment of God's purpose to Save Sinners!

E. The Women Remembered (8): Luke then tells us: “And they remembered His words.” – **That's the Turning Point!** – They had Seen the Evidence... NOW they Remembered the Explanation! – And suddenly, what appeared impossible became Understandable! **JESUS HAD FULFILLED HIS WORD!**

1. THE RESURRECTION means Jesus' WORD can be COMPLETELY TRUSTED – This is where the text becomes very personal... If Jesus kept His word about His own death and resurrection, **THEN WE CAN TRUST EVERYTHING ELSE HE HAS SAID!** He Said...

- “He who believes in Me has everlasting life.” (John 6:47) ...You can trust Him!
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6)
- “I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again.” (John 14:2-3) ...You can trust Him!
- “Because I live, you will live also.” (John 14:19) ...You can trust Him! – DO YOU TRUST HIM?

2. THE RESURRECTION also tells us that Jesus is not merely sincere... **HE IS TRUE!**

- His warnings are true... His offer of salvation is true... His promise of eternal life is true!

P/A: Remembering His Words Strengthens Faith! – The Greek word *mimnēskomai* means **“to call to mind.”** > When circumstances confuse us, God's Word REMINDS us of Truth and Restores our Hope!

- **When your faith is shaken**, return to what Jesus has already said. His promises are more dependable than your feelings, fears, or circumstances. – (Psalm 119:49) “Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope.”

SEGUE: The women came to the tomb carrying spices for a burial. **But now they leave carrying News of a Resurrection!** – What they have discovered is too important to keep to themselves...

III. THE SAINTS RESPONSE (24:9-12) — **READ:** “Then they returned... and told all...”

A. The Women Reported (9-10): They were the **first to announce the resurrection** to the disciples.

1. Their Message was Simple: “Jesus is risen from the dead...” (Matt 28:7)
2. The Church's Message: **HAS NOT CHANGED!** – Paul declared in (1 Cor 15:3-4): “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and...He was buried, and...He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.” > **THE SAME RISEN SAVIOR, SAME GOOD NEWS, SAME MESSAGE TO SHARE!**

P/A: IF JESUS HAS CHANGED YOUR LIFE, YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL! – You don't need a theology degree to say, “*I was lost, but Jesus found me! ... I was without hope, but Jesus gave me hope!*” – The simple message is: **JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR MY SINS AND ROSE AGAIN!** (FYI - Not all will believe immediately)

B. The Apostles Rejected the Report (11): *They dismissed the women's report as nonsense.* They **DIDN'T INITIALLY BELIEVE IT** because they knew Jesus had DIED on the cross!

- The Very Men, who would soon travel throughout the world boldly preaching the resurrection, were at this point Unwilling to believe it!
- Their **Temporary Unbelief** did not change the reality of the fact! – **Jesus had Risen Indeed!**

P/A: God's Truth is not determined by what we believe, but by What He has Declared! Our faith **RESTS** on the promises of our Risen Savior! – whether people believe it or not!

C. Peter Responded Personally (12): *He could not leave the question unanswered: He ran* to the tomb > He stooped down > He saw the linen cloths lying by themselves. Then *he departed, marveling at what had happened.* – **The Empty Tomb Demanded An Answer!** *Let's think about Peter for a moment...*

1. This was the same man who had denied Jesus three times (Luke 22:54-62). – His last recorded personal encounter with Jesus before the crucifixion **Ended in Bitter Tears!**
2. **Peter needed Jesus to be alive!** **Why?** Because he didn't want his last failure to be his final story!
 - He Needed **Forgiveness:** for the shame of his denial! *The risen Christ restored him* (John 21:15-17).
 - He Needed **Hope:** Despite his failures, Peter found lasting hope in Christ's resurrection! – *As he later wrote:* [God], “*...has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*” (1 Pet 1:3)
 - He Needed **Restoration:** Jesus wasn't finished with Peter! The man who denied Him would soon **boldly proclaim Him** (Acts 2:14-41).

P/A: Like Peter, we all have failures we wish we could undo. But **because Jesus is Alive,** our failures don't have to define our future! – Through repentance and faith, we can experience His forgiveness and restoring grace. – The Empty Tomb meant Peter's story wasn't over—and **because Jesus lives,** neither is ours!

CLOSING THOUGHTS: The Women discovered an empty tomb. The Angels declared a risen Savior. Peter encountered evidence that gave him hope. > **Now the question comes to you: WHO IS JESUS CHRIST TO YOU?** And **What will YOU do with the risen Christ?** ... **THE TOMB DEMANDS AN ANSWER!**