

Luke 24

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There is a curtain of silence around the resurrection. We can only look at the evidence that Jesus arose, but not His actual departure from the tomb.

THE WOMEN COME TO THE EMPTY TOMB

(24:1.) But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

- **The women** had prepared **spices** where they were staying and brought them at dawn on Sunday. This would complete the work begun by Joseph and Nicodemus late Friday afternoon.
- Some critics say the **women** went to the wrong **tomb**, but they had checked carefully the previous evening. And where do we get the information about other tombs being nearby? This was a new tomb that Joseph had constructed and was not in a graveyard.
- The testimony of **women** did not have much standing in the courts. It is the Lord's way to have them be the first to announce the departure of Jesus from the grave.

(2.) They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. (3) So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.

- The **stone** was already moved and the **body** was gone. An angel from God had **rolled the stone away**. Matthew 28:2.

(4.) As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. (5) The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?"

- Two angels were present, though Luke described them as **two men in dazzling robes**. They had just descended from the realm of beauty and splendor. The **women** were in the close confines of the tomb and who wouldn't be **terrified**?
- The question from the **men** was designed to open their minds to a resurrection. Jesus is the Living One. Some see a mild rebuke in this question because Jesus had announced that He would rise on the third day. That is brought up next.

(6.) He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what He told you back in Galilee, (7) that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that He would rise again on the third day."

- The angels announced that Jesus had **risen** and asked the women to **remember** what He said. Jesus had fulfilled His own prediction perfectly!



"The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things," He said. "He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day He will be raised from the dead."

(Luke 9:22 NLT) Also 9:44; 18:31-34.

(8) Then they remembered that He had said this. (9) So they rushed back from the tomb to tell His eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened.

- That "aha" moment came and they understood. They put the pieces together and headed off to the location of the **eleven** and **everyone else**.
- Each individual or group in the unfolding story had to be convinced that Jesus was actually raised from the dead. Now we look at the next group:

(10.) It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. (11) But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.

- The **apostles** would not **believe** the **women**. Even though the report of the empty tomb and the risen Jesus came from the very **women** who had traveled with the **apostles** and ministered to them, as a group the men rejected the **women's** testimony. Clearly they were not trying to think up a reason to believe that Jesus had risen.

(12.) However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

- There was an exception among the apostles. **Peter ran to the tomb**. What he saw matched what the women had reported. Peter went to his home **wondering**. The truth is showing itself to be possible. **William Barclay** has an interesting perspective on Peter: "The women returned with their story to the rest of the disciples but they refused to believe them. They called it an idle tale. The word used is one employed by Greek medical writers to describe the babbling of a fevered and insane mind.

Only Peter went out to see if it might not possibly be true. The very fact that Peter was there says much for him. The story of his denial of his Master was not a thing that could be kept silent; and yet he had the moral courage to face those who knew his shame. There was something of the hero in Peter, as well as something of the coward. The man who was a fluttering dove is on the way to become a rock.”

THE WALK TO EMMAUS

(13.) That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. (14) As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened.

- Two disciples were on a trip to **Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem** on Sunday. (This writer has been there.) Perhaps they were leaving **Jerusalem** and going home following the Passover time.
- Their travel **talk** was about the events surrounding the final hours of **Jesus**.

(15.) As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus Himself suddenly came and began walking with them. (16.) But God kept them from recognizing Him.

- **Jesus** joined the travelers, but He could not be **recognized**. He wanted them to consider the Old Testament before He revealed His identity.

(17.) He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces.

- Jesus inquired about the travel conversation, knowing full well what it was about. Getting the listener involved was one of Jesus' methods of teaching.

(18.) Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

- The death of Jesus was widely spoken about. Even a visitor to **Jerusalem** should have known what had **happened**.

(19.) "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and He was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. (20) But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified Him.

- In response to the question **What things?** one of the travelers gave some details.
 - This was about the **Jesus** from **Nazareth**.
 - He was **a prophet who did powerful miracles**.
 - **He was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people**
 - The religious and civil leaders delivered Him **to be condemned to death and crucified**.

(21) We had hoped He was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

- The men were disappointed in what happened because they had **hoped** that Jesus would **rescue Israel**. It is now the third day since the crucifixion and all hope for their dreams were gone. Their view that the **Messiah** would rescue Israel from the Romans was askew.

(22.) "Then some women from our group of His followers were at His tomb early this morning, and they came back with an

amazing report. (23) They said His body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive!

- There was one puzzling thing that had occurred. **Some women** had gone to the **tomb** earlier **this morning** and **they came back with an amazing report. They said His body was missing.** Further, they claimed to have seen **angels** who claimed that **Jesus is alive.** The story had circulated rapidly that Sunday.

(24.) Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, His body was gone, just as the women had said."

- Some of our men also went to the tomb and verified that the **body was gone.** The travelers had this recent information.

(25.) Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. (26) Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering His glory?"

- These two travelers had not believed the Old Testament **prophets** as they should have. The Messiah of Israel was to achieve **glory** through **suffering.**

(27.) Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

- Wouldn't we all have loved to hear that summary of statements about Jesus in the Old Testament **writings?** He told them the Messiah was:
 - The Seed of the Woman, whose heel was bruised.
 - The blessing of Abraham to all nations.
 - The High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.
 - The Man who wrestled with Jacob.

- The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.
- The voice from the burning bush.
- The Passover Lamb.
- The Prophet greater than Moses.
- The son of David who was a King greater than David.
- The suffering Savior of Psalm 22.
- The Good Shepherd of Psalm 23.
- The suffering Servant of Isaiah 53.
- The Princely Messiah of Daniel.
- The Branch from Nazareth.

(28.) By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if He were going on, (29.) but they begged Him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So He went home with them.

- As they approached Emmaus at sunset, the two invited the stranger to **stay the night** with them. And He agreed.

(30.) As they sat down to eat, He took the bread and blessed it. Then He broke it and gave it to them. (31) Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And at that moment He disappeared!

- Jesus took the leadership and offered a **blessing** for the **bread**. Then **recognition** came to Cleopas and his companion. But Jesus **disappeared**. In His resurrected body, He was able to appear and disappear at will.

(32.) They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as He talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

- Their **hearts** were warmed as Jesus had explained the **Scriptures**. Now they knew the women were right!

(33.) And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, (34) who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter. "

- Even though it was dangerous to travel after dark, they high-tailed it back to **Jerusalem** and located the meeting place **of the eleven** and their friends. Now they could affirm that Jesus had risen because they had spent time with Him.
- Already Simon **Peter** had encountered Jesus and that was being talked about by the larger group.

(35.) Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized Him as He was breaking the bread.

- The **two** travelers to Emmaus **told their story** to the men who were softening.

HIS APPEARANCE TO THE TEN

(36.) And just as they were telling about it, Jesus Himself was suddenly standing there among them. "Peace be with you," He said.

- It must have been after sunset, so **Jesus** appeared on Sunday night as we would describe it, but Monday night as those people would have described it.
- Just as **Jesus** had left the meal at Emmaus without a word, so He appeared **among** His people here without entering. Thomas was absent and Judas had died.
- They had been so upset since the crucifixion and He offered them **peace**.

(37.) But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!

- The resurrection of Jesus was not yet fully accepted by the group and some thought they were **seeing** an unearthly spirit.

(38.) "Why are you frightened?" He asked. "Why are your hearts filled with doubt? (39) Look at My hands. Look at My feet. You can see that it's really Me. Touch Me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do."

- They were **frightened** because they had not accepted the truth that Jesus had risen, yet He was here.
- They were doubting the resurrection in the face of the evidence. They were invited to **look** and **touch**.
- As for their idea that He was a **ghost**, He pointed out that **ghosts don't have bodies**.

(40.) As He spoke, He showed them His hands and His feet.

- **He showed** the ultimate evidence of who **He** was.

(41.) Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then He asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" (42) They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, (43) and He ate it as they watched.

- The disciples needed time to internalize what that were experiencing. They were caught up in **joy and wonder**. Jesus added more evidence that he was not a ghost by asking for food. **He ate it as they watched**. Jesus **ate** with His disciples in most of His appearances that followed.

THEIR MINDS WERE OPENED

(44.) Then He said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled."

- Luke abridges the story and skips ahead forty days. Jesus is now talking to the Eleven before He ascended to heaven.
- All thing **written** in Scripture about the Messiah were **fulfilled** in Jesus.
- The Jews at that time divided what we call the Old Testament—it was their only Scripture—into three parts.
 - **The Law of Moses** (Genesis - Deuteronomy)
 - **The Prophets** (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the 12 minor prophets.)
 - **The Psalms** (The rest of the books such as Job.)

(45.) Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

(46) And He said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day.

(47) It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of His name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: "There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent."

- Just as He did for the two on the road to Emmaus, He opened **their minds to understand the Scriptures**.
- The Christ would rise and repentance for the **forgiveness of sins** would be **proclaimed** to the **nations, beginning from Jerusalem**.

(48.) You are witnesses of all these things. (49) "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as My Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

- These men were to **witness** the story after they received the promise from the Father. **Stay** here until you receive the **power**.

The Ascension of Jesus

(50.) Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting His hands to heaven, He blessed them. (51) While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up to heaven.

- After a walk to **Bethany**, He **blessed them** and ascended back to heaven. It may have been at this point that He reclaimed His glorious heavenly being that He possessed before being born as a member of the human race.

(52.) So they worshiped Him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. (53) And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.

- His chosen men **worshiped** Jesus after He ascended and **returned to Jerusalem**, with **joy** that lasted.

— The Gospel of Luke Has Been Completed —