

**04/05/26 “He Is Not Here—He Is Risen!”
Luke 24:1–12**

This morning we gather to celebrate the most important event in human history—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Everything rises or falls on this truth. As Paul the Apostle writes in 1 Corinthians 15:14, “If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.”

If there is no resurrection of Christ then Christianity collapses, sin still condemns us, and death still wins. But if the tomb is empty...then everything changes.

And that is exactly what we see in Luke 24.

Let’s read Luke 24:1-12...

Cemeteries and graves, as a general rule, are not places people enjoy visiting. Tombs represent finality. Graves represent loss. Cemeteries represent death. We go there to bury those we love and to mourn. Everyone knows that, including those who buried Jesus after His crucifixion.

But this Easter morning visit to the tomb in Luke 24 becomes a celebration of the greatest reversal in history that changes everything for all time. The place these women came to grieve would become a place of deep and lasting joy—because the tomb was empty.

Main Point: The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals three life-transforming realities so that we would trust Him, rejoice in Him, and make Him known.

My pray is that we each know the risen Christ and would trust Him, believe in Him, obey Him, worship Him, follow Him and proclaim Him.

I. The Resurrection Corrects Our Unbelief

Verse 1...

The women come to the tomb early in the morning at daybreak.

Why were they coming? They were not expecting a resurrection but expecting death. They brought spices because they come to anoint a dead body.

Unlike the Egyptians, the Jews did not attempt to embalm bodies but simply encased them in strongly perfumed burial cloths to help mask the stench of decay. John 19:38-42 tell us burial preparations had been started by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea on the Friday evening of the day our Lord died. We read in Luke 23:50-56...

Jesus was placed in the tomb late on Friday, so the women had to work quickly to finish before the Sabbath began, since no work was allowed on the Sabbath, particularly not anything having to do with dead bodies. Since the Sabbath began at sunset Friday, the women who had been at the tomb on Friday evening made plans to return to the tomb on Sunday (the day after the Saturday Sabbath since no work was allowed on the Sabbath include work with dead bodies).

They likely spent the Sabbath planning out and preparing for their trip to the tomb on Sunday morning.

First-century Jews understood the calendar day to begin at sunset. In accordance with Jesus' predictions, He remained buried for parts of three calendar days: the end of Friday, the entirety of Saturday (the Sabbath), and roughly the first half of Sunday (from sunset to sunrise).

The Jewish people had no names for the days of the week, but numbered them in relation to the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. So, the first day of the week is Sunday.

In all four Gospels the day of the resurrection is Sunday, the first day of the week. Shortly the first day of the week replaced the Sabbath as the main day of worship for the church. From this resurrection moment on, Sunday becomes the Lord's Day. Acts 20:7 says, "The church meets on the first day of the week." First Corinthians 16:2 says, "When you come together on the first day of the week, bring your offerings."

It's wonderful that we continue to celebrate and worship Jesus on Sunday mornings as a testimony to His resurrection on this day.

While these women were heading to the tomb, we find out from John 20:19 our Lord's disciples were locked up inside the Upper Room trembling in fear that the same kind of death that Jesus had met awaited them also.

Just as the Jesus has predicted in Mark 14:27 when He said, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd and the sheep shall be scattered.'"

The women had come to anoint the deceased body of Jesus with burial spices. Verse 10...

Mary Magdalene had been especially helped by Jesus and was devoted to Him (Luke 8:2). She had lingered at the cross (Mark 15:47), and then she was first at the tomb. With her were Mary the mother of James; Joanna; and other devout women (Luke 24:10), hoping to finish preparing their Lord's body for burial.

It was a sad labor of love that was transformed into gladness when they discovered that Jesus was alive.

Verses 2-5...

At this point two angels appeared on the scene. There was a kind rebuke in their message as they reminded the women of their bad memories!

More than once, Jesus had told His followers that He would suffer and die and be raised from the dead.

Jesus said in Luke 9:22, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day."

In Luke 9:43-44, "But while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing, He said to His disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men."

In Luke 18:31-34 we read, "Then Jesus took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again."

How sad it is when God's people forget His Word and live defeated lives. Even those who loved Jesus most, the disciples and the women mentioned in verse 10, did not expect Him to rise as He promised.

Verse 4a says, "While they were perplexed about this."

If we're honest, we can relate to these women. God's Word tells us that Christ is risen, and yet we often go through our days facing challenges—both outside of us and within us—with the same kind of perplexity... even when we don't need to be.

Like these women, our confusion often comes from forgetting God's Word—or being distracted from it by the pressures and pursuits of this world.

Brothers and sisters, be in God's Word each day, remember His Word. Remember His promises.

Remember His power. Remember the hope that is ours—because Christ is risen.

I have a daily Bible that I read each day. OT, Psalm, Proverb, New Testament each day. Takes maybe 10 minutes to read. The NT reading is currently the gospel of Luke. Oh, I love meditating on Christ's Words and His incredible promises.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit in Luke 11:13: Jesus promises that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

Answered Prayer & Provision: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9), and the assurance that God knows your needs (Luke 12:30-31).

Forgiveness and Mercy: "Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37), promising mercy for those who show mercy, with rewards poured out in abundance.

Salvation for the Lost: Jesus did not come to save the "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10), a central theme throughout the gospel. In Luke 5:32 Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Assurance of Paradise: Jesus' promise to the thief on the cross next to Christ's cross who said: "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

What assurance of salvation!

Notice the question the angels asked the women at the end of verse 5, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead?"

That question confronts all of us. Because, honestly, we often do the same thing: You may think you know Christ, but you deny His power by not knowing Him as your risen Savior. Like Kris shared in his baptism testimony, he looked at Jesus as more of a character in a book of stories—someone whose life gave moral lessons, but not someone I believed was truly God, who lived, died, and rose again to save sinners.

That's what the angels are saying in verse 5: "Why do you keep going back to what cannot give life?" You won't find life where there is no life. You must look to the living, risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Resurrection Corrects Our Unbelief. Jesus is not in the grave—He is alive.

II. The Resurrection Confirms Christ's Words

The rebuke of verse 5 sets the stage for the angels' proclamation of the joyous Easter message in verse 6a: "He is not here; but He has risen!"

With the astounding truth ringing over their now uplifted faces, the angels said to the women in verse 6b-7.... The angels challenged them to remember the prophecies Jesus had made back in Galilee. The angels don't give new information. They point back to what Jesus already said. Jesus repeatedly told them:

He would suffer
He would die
He would rise

Jesus said in Matthew 16:21, "From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day."

Matthew 17:22–23, "And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

Matthew 20:17–19, As Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up."

And now... every word of Christ is confirmed, every prophecy fulfilled.

Verse 8 tells us, "And they remembered His words."

This is the turning point. Not when they saw the empty tomb...but when they remembered the Word of Christ.

Because Faith is anchored not in feelings...but in the Word of God.

The resurrection proves: Jesus is trustworthy. Scripture is true. God keeps His promises

If Jesus rose from the dead...then everything He said is true: Your sins can be forgiven. Eternal life is real. Judgment is coming. Salvation is found in Him alone.

The great truth here for us is that the significance of the Resurrection is inseparable from Jesus' prophetic word about his death and resurrection. It is the Word of God that makes sense of everything. The very structure of this final chapter of Luke makes this clear.

Luke 24 recounts three episodes—first, the women's encounter with the angels at the empty tomb (vv. 1–12), secondly, the encounter on the road to Emmaus (vv. 13–35), and thirdly, Jesus' appearance to his disciples in Jerusalem (vv. 36–49). Significantly, all three episodes are structured the same way: bewilderment, rebuke, instruction, and witness. And the instruction section in all three episodes consists of a call to remember God's Word. Here the women are told:

"Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words. (vv. 6b–8)

And on the Emmaus Road, Jesus rebuked:

“How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (vv. 25–27)

And then in Jerusalem, he instructed the whole band of disciples:

“This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.” (vv. 44–46)

This means that we are to be people of the whole Book. We are to hunger for and devour the Word of God! Our minds and hearts will begin to embrace the massive dimensions of Christ only through the light of the Scriptures—all of them.

What were the women and the disciples to remember? Jesus’ promise – “I will arise!” What are we to remember? Jesus’ promise- “I will return!”

May we be faithful to read, study, understand, and apply God’s Word.

Years ago in England, two men set out to disprove Christianity. One was a well-known English jurist and literary scholar named Lord Lyttleton. The other was Gilbert West. They agreed that if Christianity was to be discredited, two things were necessary: to disprove the Resurrection and to explain the conversion of Saul of Tarsus in a way that satisfied the skeptics.

The two men divided these tasks between themselves, Lyttleton taking the problem of Saul and West agreeing to research the Resurrection. They invested over a year for their studies, then met together to compare notes.

Each one was astonished to discover that the other had become a Christian. The evidence was too strong, the truth too undeniable. It still is.

An honest approach to examination of the evidence for and against the resurrection will leave you with little doubt that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a true, historical event. But such a glorious truth that Jesus has conquered death for all who believe in Him demands a response, the nature of which will determine a soul's eternal destiny! As Paul declared in Acts 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”

The Resurrection Corrects Our Unbelief, The Resurrection Confirms Christ’s Word, and third:

III. The Resurrection Compels Our Witness

The women did remember Jesus’ words. Now the light began to come on, and they became messengers of what they had seen and heard.

Verses 9-12...

The women immediately go and tell the disciples. But what happens? Verse 11 says “These words appeared to the disciples as nonsense.”

Even the apostles struggle to believe. Except one—Peter. Verse 12 tells us “Peter got up and ran to the tomb...”

Why? Because something inside him says: What if it's true? And when Peter sees the empty tomb...He leaves marveling at what had happened.

Warren Wiersbe writes "We do not know at what time Jesus arose from the dead on the first day of the week, but it must have been very early. Matthew 28:2-4 tells us the earthquake and the angel opened the tomb. It was not to let Jesus out (he could pass through the stone walls) but to let the witnesses in. "Come and see, go and tell!" is the Easter mandate for the church."

The resurrection demands a response. You cannot stay neutral:

Some dismiss it

Some doubt it

Some investigate it

Some believe it

And those who truly believe...proclaim it.

The resurrection declares:

Jesus lived the perfect life you could not live

He died the death you deserved

He rose to defeat sin and death forever

The question is not:

Did Jesus rise? The evidence says He did.

The real question is: Will you believe?

We've seen how the women responded. We've seen how the disciples responded.

But now the focus shifts—How will you respond?

Will you dismiss it as nonsense? Or will you believe?

Because as the apostle Paul makes clear in 1 Corinthians 15, if Christ has not been raised, then everything falls apart—your faith is empty, and you are still in your sins.

But if He has been raised...then everything changes.

And there is no firmer foundation you can build your life on than the risen Christ.

This is Easter Sunday morning. As you heard in Kris' baptism testimony, it is a wonderful day to stop doubting and start believing.

Luke leaves us with a simple but powerful picture: An empty tomb. A fulfilled promise. A life-changing reality.

The resurrection means: Death is defeated. Sin is conquered. Hope is alive

So, we say with confidence: He is not here—He is risen!

It is not enough merely to feel that Christianity is true or even accept intellectually that it is. Feelings remove emotional barriers to experiencing the risen Christ; facts remove intellectual ones. But neither alone is sufficient to save.

Only faith in a resurrected Savior will result in salvation. As you heard in a baptism testimony this morning, “Confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believing in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,” will result in salvation, “for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation” Romans 10:9–10

Let’s pray...