

**Title: He Has Risen! So What?**

**Text: Luke 24:1–12**

**Picture of a coffin...** At the heart of Christianity is the claim that a dead man rose back to life. I mean, this is absolutely ridiculous! I have been to many funerals over the course of my life, and I have approached many corpses during those funerals, and to date, none of them woke up! In fact, I might have died myself if they had woken up!

The thought of a man being raised from the dead is foolishness to the highest order...or is it? What if it were true? What if there was a man who actually beat death? What if there was a man who beat death and that same man made it possible for you to beat death, eternal death as well? What if you could know today that because of this man's death and resurrection, you could be assured of eternal life? This is the main idea of the sermon this morning...

**Main Idea - Jesus Was Raised From the Dead, Just As He Said! - Do You Believe?**

There are three actions I want you to see that the disciples take in Luke 24:1-12, and the first is...

**1. A Walk of Unbelief (vs. 1-5)**

**Luke 24:1–5 ESV**

*<sup>1</sup> But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup> And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"*

It was early Sunday morning, the first day of the week, and they, the ladies mentioned in Luke 23:55, namely, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James and the other women...

...walked to the tomb and their walk was one of unbelief. You may ask, *"How do you know they were walking there in unbelief"*

Well, we can tell because they were going to finish the embalming process they were not able to finish on Friday because the Sabbath was upon them...

**Luke 23:53–56 ESV**

*<sup>53</sup> Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. <sup>54</sup> It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. <sup>55</sup> The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup> Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.*

What does their action of walking with the embalming spices show us? What did the ladies believe? They believed that Jesus was DEAD! They Believed He was still in the tomb. They were walking there in unbelief!

But when they arrived at the borrowed tomb where Jesus was laid to rest, what did they find?  
The stone was moved!

How big was the stone? No wounded/crucified man had the wherewithal to move such a weight.

### Show Picture of tomb...

*The entrance of a Jewish tomb was quite small, so the stone needed to cover the opening would only be 4-6' in diameter, and approximately 1' thick. How much would such a stone weigh? Depending on the type of stone used, it could weigh between 1-2 tons (2000-4000 pounds).[1] This is quite heavy, but two men could move it into place (Mt 27:60; Jn 19:38-42). The more difficult task was removing the stone.*

*Generally speaking, the rolling stone was set inside a groove in front of the entrance, and secured from falling over by a stone wall that stood in front of the tomb opening (the rolling stone was sandwiched between the tomb entrance and stone wall as the pictures below illustrate). Often, the groove was not level, but slightly sloped. To close the tomb, the stone would be rolled down the groove at a decline and come to rest in front of the entrance. To open the tomb, the stone would have to be rolled up the groove at an incline. -*

*<https://theosophical.wordpress.com/2011/03/24/the-size-of-the-stone-covering-jesus'-tomb-2/>*

The stone was rolled away from the tomb. There was no logical reason from their perspective why this should be the case...

I don't know about you, but if I were with these ladies and we came up to a tomb that was supposed to be closed and it, in fact, was open, I would go in to investigate. *Come on, you know you would too!*

That's what they did. They climbed into the tomb only to find it empty! How could this be? Did someone steal His body? That makes no sense...

*Rev. Gary W. Jensen - Neither the Jewish nor the Roman leaders, who guarded the tomb would have taken the body. Rather, both had every motive to produce the body publicly in order to humiliate the disciples and nip their movement in the bud. And since the scene in question was right at Jerusalem, it was completely within their power to locate the corpse should it still have existed. Yet to their dismay, no such body was ever produced. If the Jews had the body, they would have wheeled it in at the day of Pentecost when all Jerusalem was in an uproar because of Peter's sermon on the Resurrection of Christ. - <https://christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-t012.html>*

Stealing the body is a seemingly logical explanation for one with a heart of unbelief, but there is a better explanation. An explanation that is given in verses 4 and 5...

### Luke 24:4-5 ESV

*<sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup> And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"*

This was a puzzling/confusing event for the ladies to experience. Why? Even though He told them on multiple occasions exactly what would happen, they were still slow to believe. The two men in "dazzling apparel" were angels of God.

Angels tend to show up throughout the Scriptures when God is about to do something amazing...

- Two Angels showed up to save Lot before Sodom was destroyed (Gen 19:1-22)
- Two Angels showed up to Abraham and Sarah to let them know they were about to have a baby in their old age. (Gen 18:1-33)
- They showed up to inform Samson's parents about their baby (Judges 13:2-22)
- The Angel, Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus!

And here are **Two Angels** to announce the resurrection of Jesus. The Resurrection is a big deal, folks!! See John 20:12.

#### **John 20:12 ESV**

*<sup>12</sup> And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.*

Look again at verse 5...

#### **Luke 24:5 ESV**

*<sup>5</sup> And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"*

From perplexed to frightened. Listen, if an Angel showed up here right now in all of his glory, you and I would be terrified! In fact, they couldn't even seem to look at them! They fell to their faces. We see this reaction to Angels throughout the Scriptures because they are holy and righteous creatures.

The Angel's question to these women was a powerful one. One so powerful that it challenged their thinking. *"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"*

They must have been confused about what the Angels just said. After all, they were not looking for the living, they were looking for the dead - the dead Jesus!

But He wasn't dead! He was alive!

They should have known that Jesus would beat death. They should have known that the grave would not hold the Messiah - based on His testimony alone...

#### **Matthew 16:21 ESV**

*<sup>21</sup> 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 on the third day be raised.*

#### **Mark 8:31 ESV**

<sup>31</sup> *And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

**Luke 9:22 ESV**

<sup>22</sup> *saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."*

Over and over Jesus told His disciples that He was going to die AND that He would rise again. And each time it was met with unbelief. And even on their walk to His grave that morning, they were not seeking the living among the dead, they were simply seeking the dead!

God had important news for these ladies. So important He dispatched two of His Holy Messengers to give them the glorious news.

*When our oldest daughter Alex was a little girl we had to be so careful about telling her what we were going to do on a particular day because if we changed our plans she would say, "But you said we were going to do such and such."*

*We couldn't get away with anything around her! She never forgot and believed every word we said!*

The disciples - these ladies - did not have that problem. They failed to believe what Jesus said about his own resurrection.

Folks, the resurrection of the Messiah should not have been a surprise to the disciples. Certainly, the Old Testament Scriptures predicted it...

**Psalm 16:10 ESV**

<sup>10</sup> *For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.*

and Jesus spoke over and over about it. Yet they walked in unbelief.

What about you this morning? Are you walking in unbelief when it comes to the resurrection? Listen, if this whole Jesus thing is simply a figment of our imagination, then it is really no big deal.

But, if Jesus is real. If His life was real. If His death was real and His resurrection was real, then we have been afforded the best news ever!

**Review - *Jesus Was Raised From the Dead, Just As He Said! - Do You Believe?***

1. *A Walk of Unbelief*

**2. A Run of Remembrance (vs. 6-9)**

**Luke 24:6-9 ESV**

<sup>6</sup> *He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." <sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.*

Well, the Angels have some very important news. In fact, we refer to it as the Good News! The Gospel! The Angels declare the most monumental news ever spoken!

Jesus Christ is alive! He has risen, He has risen indeed!

The Angels then remind them what the Lord told them in verse 7.

This is the Gospel. This is what Paul declares in

**1 Corinthians 15:1–4 ESV**

*<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*

**The News is constant.** All the major networks, newspapers, and websites are given to telling us the latest and greatest juicy tidbits!

But, my friends, there is no greater news than what these Angels told these women some 2000 years ago!

The message of the Gospel is this. God sent the God/man into this world to die in your place so you would not have to be separated from Him in Hell for eternity. He came to give you eternal life! And that eternal life is obtained by Believing that Jesus is the God/man He claims to be and that His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection from the dead is sufficient to save you.

You can be saved today! You can pray to God today and ask Him to forgive you of your sin! And He will do it! What are you waiting for?

*You might think you are too bad for Him to save you.*

**No! Even the criminal that hung next to him on his own cross believed in Christ and Jesus said, “Today you will be with me in paradise.”** You can’t out sin God's grace! He loves you more than you can possibly understand!

*On the other hand, maybe you might think you **aren’t that bad** and God will let you into heaven because you are a good person.*

Well, entrance into heaven isn’t gained by good works. The key of good works will not unlock the door of heaven. If you could earn your way to heaven, there would have been no need for Christ to come in the first place.

**Titus 3:5–6 ESV**

*<sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

The ONLY way you will EVER get into heaven after you die is if you believe that JESUS is the only way into heaven.

**John 14:6 ESV**

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Christ willingly went to the cross for you to pay for your sins.

Someone has to pay for your sins, and Christ did.

*Think of sin as the breaking of the law. When you break the law, and are caught, you have to pay the price. If you are speeding in your car and a police officer pulls you over, he or she is obligated to give you a ticket, a punishment for you breaking the law. This is how a just society works.*

The same is true in the spiritual realm. God has his Holy laws (the top 10), and when we break them, we have to pay the price. Everyone has broken them over and over. Myself included!

**Romans 3:23 ESV**

*<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

And payment for breaking God's law is death, eternal death or separation from God in Hell. This is really bad news!

But there is really good news! The same God that promises to punish lawbreakers is the same God who loves you and doesn't want you to pay the price for your lawbreaking. So, He sent the sinless son of God to offer His life in the place of yours.

**Romans 5:8 ESV**

*<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

God the Father promises to accept what God the Son (Jesus) did on the cross as payment enough to cover all of your sins - past, present and future!

That is absolutely astounding! His life for yours! And all you need to do is repent of your sin and accept the free gift of eternal life by FAITH!

**John 3:16 ESV**

*<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*"Christ was not mere victim of unjust men when He hung on the cross...It was the greatest sacrifice ever made; the purest act of love ever carried out; and ultimately an infinitely a higher act of divine justice than all the human injustice it represented." - John MacArthur*

This is what the Angles meant when they said,

**Luke 24:7 ESV**

*<sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”*

Verse 8-9 - Well, the ladies then remembered what Jesus had told them and they rushed back to the apostles to give them this amazing news!

The way Luke writes this seems so subdued but you know they were bursting with joy at the prospect of their Lord being raised from the dead. In fact, Matthew captures more of this attitude in...

**Matthew 28:8 ESV**

*<sup>8</sup> So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.*

These women had been told by the Angels the most significant news ever to be spoken! Jesus had risen from the dead. Everything He had told them is true, and now they are sprinting back to the Apostles to tell them the amazing news!

*A lady recently won the lottery and wanted to remain anonymous. I don't blame her. But I wouldn't be able to keep my mouth shut! I'd tell everybody and probably give half of it away before the week was over. It's good that I don't play the lottery, I suppose!*

These ladies remembered the Words of Jesus, and it motivated them to go and tell the apostles of this amazing thing that has happened.

For the Christian here this morning I have a question for you. How does your life reflect that you know the good news?

Do you live like you have forgotten the Words of Jesus? Or do you live your life exuding the reality of the resurrection?

I honestly struggle with apathy about the resurrection more than I do running to tell others what I remember about Jesus!

Christian, we must repent of this! We have a glorious privilege to regularly remember and run to others sharing with them the amazing news that they can have the guarantee of a right relationship with God and eternal life!

And so I say to the unbelievers here this morning. **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!”**

**Review - Jesus Was Raised From the Dead, Just As He Said! - Do You Believe?**

1. A Walk of Unbelief

2. A Run of Remembrance

**3. A Story of Utter Nonsense (vs. 10-12)**

**Luke 24:10-12 ESV**



<sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> 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.

So they ran to the apostles to tell them this amazing news that was corroborated by heavenly messengers. Surely these men would listen to these women?

But as you can tell from the text, this was not the case. The apostles' astonishing response was ***they didn't believe!*** These Twelve men, who were personally called by Jesus Himself to learn from Him, their Messiah, the One who promised them that He would rise again from the dead, didn't believe the women's testimony!!!

They thought it to be an idle tale!

**λῆρος, ου m:** *speech which is complete and utter nonsense—'nonsense, humbug, pure nonsense.'* Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 431.

The NIV translates this phrase "*But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.*" Can you believe that it was the apostles who didn't believe that Jesus was raised from the dead? If anyone should have expected this, one would think it would be them.

Well, there were two that had enough curiosity to at least go and check out their story.

Luke mentions Peter in his account...

#### **Luke 24:12 ESV**

<sup>12</sup> 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.

John mentions that he too went to the tomb...

#### **John 20:3–6 ESV**

<sup>3</sup> So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there,

They at least ran to the tomb to check things out. I do not think they ran in total faith, however, they ran in skepticism to see if these things were so. Peter saw the proof of an empty tomb yet still struggled to believe. John's gospel says in verse 9, "*for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead.*"

It is easy for us to look down our nose in judgment against the disciples because they didn't believe the words of Jesus. But we shouldn't. They had just witnessed the brutal killing of their Rabbi! He was beaten beyond recognition and then crucified. Because they were associated with Him their lives were in danger. They were hiding in the upper room not sure what to do or



what was next! I think I would have been right there with them! And the thought of Jesus being raised from the dead, after all they had been through, was utter nonsense!

But it wasn't! It was the Gospel truth!

### **Acts 1:3 ESV**

*<sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*

*Lee Strobel put it like this...*

*"If we were holding a trial to determine the facts concerning the resurrection, and if we were to call to the witness stand every witness who personally encountered the resurrected Jesus and we cross-examined them for only 15 minutes, and if we went around the clock without a break...we would be listening to first-hand testimony for more than 128 hours...that's over 5 days worth of testimony...who could possibly walk away unconvinced?"*

*The stories...they are too close. The written history is too strong to deny what they saw and what they experienced.*

*One psychologist even said, "over 500 people having the same hallucination would be more of a miracle than the resurrection itself!" - <https://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-greg-buchner-quotes-apologeticsjesus-20305?+ref=TextIllustrationSerps>*

### **Review - Jesus Was Raised From the Dead, Just As He Said! - Do You Believe?**

1. A Walk of Unbelief
2. A Run of Remembrance
3. A Story of Utter Nonsense

### **Conclusion**

Jesus rose from the dead, just as He said He Would. 500 people witnesses Jesus walking and talking among them for 40 days after the resurrection. The whole of the New Testament (a historical, exceptionally reliable document) attests and proclaims that this is fact.

**So what?** Big Deal! Who cares that Jesus was raised from the dead? What is the big deal about this anyway?

### **1 Corinthians 15:17-22 ESV**

*<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

In a very short period of time, the disciples did come to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead and it was the single most galvanizing truth behind their faith in Christ. All the disciples, except for John, were martyred for their belief in Christ and His resurrection.

**Charles W. Colson** served as Special Counsel to President Richard Nixon from 1969 to 1973. *“I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Everyone was beaten, tortured, stoned, and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world- and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks.*

*You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.”*

— **Charles W. Colson**

The Title of this sermon is “He Has Risen! So What?” So what?

Ladies and gentlemen, if you do not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead, you have no hope of entering eternal life.

His resurrection is that important. **So, do you believe?**

### **Invitation**

### **Connection Group Questions**

1. What are you rejoicing in?
2. What are you challenged by?
3. What have you learned about God from this passage?
4. What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
5. What have you learned about mankind from this passage?
6. What will I do this week based on this passage?
7. With whom will you share what you learned this week?