



## First Baptist Church Selmer

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE • HE IS RISEN! • LUKE 24:1-12; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-5 • 4/9/2023

### MAIN POINT

The resurrection stands as the single greatest proof of the deity of Christ.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**When is the last time your well-laid plans fell apart?**

**How do you feel when a person does not go along with your plans?**

There are definitely some color-coordinated calendar people in your group today. Go ahead and admit it! There is no shame in it, honestly.

I will confess that my personal/work life does operate better and is far less stressful when my week is planned out. The problem is, the older you get and the more people that come into your life, the harder it is to keep to your own personal schedule. Someone gets sick. Someone has a ballgame. Someone wants to go out to eat.

For the most part, we all have a basic outline of what we plan to do in a day's time. Whether it be a daily routine and schedule or planning a trip or a party, plans are good, but they sometimes fall apart. God's plans are all-encompassing and He orchestrates the world exactly to plan. When we fail to understand God's plan we can miss the most important things. In the resurrection story, we will see the disciples who did not understand God's plan until the resurrection showed them all that Christ had come to do.

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

## HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 24:1-12.

*1 "But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 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? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.' 8 And they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 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, 11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 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." (ESV)*

**What were the women planning to do? Why did they go instead of Jesus' disciples?**

**How do you think they felt when they saw the empty tomb?**

**What explanation did the angels give for Jesus not being in the tomb?**

The woman came to anoint Christ's body. With the exception of John, the disciples did not go to the crucifixion. When Christ was arrested, they hid to try and protect themselves. The woman must have been astonished that the tomb was open, especially given that Roman guards had been stationed there.

**Read Luke 9:21-22. How was the empty tomb part of Jesus' plan?**

**Why didn't they remember Jesus saying this? Can you recall any passages of Scripture where Jesus referred to His resurrection (see Matthew 16:21, 17:22-23, and 20:18-19)?**

**Why might the disciples not have believed the testimony of the women? Did they remember Jesus' teaching that He would be raised from the dead?**

Jesus Christ knew what He was getting into. He knew He would die, and He told the disciples that after He died, He would raise on the third day. The idea of their leader dying was difficult for the disciples, and they missed out on Christ's glimpse into God's plan.

**How did Peter react to the news of an empty tomb?**

**Why is it hard to trust God when our plans don't match up with His plan? How can we marvel as Peter did when we experience and better understand God's plan?**

Peter was the one who had to see it for himself. He had followed Jesus to the High Priest's house and denied Christ three times. If Christ was raised, then he could see Christ again and possibly make up for his mistakes. Peter marveled at the empty tomb. He saw a clear picture of the plan that Jesus had taught about all along: the plan to fulfill the Scriptures, die, and be raised. Paul also talked about this plan in 1 Corinthians 15.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-5.

*1 "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve." (ESV)*

**What is Paul reminding the Corinthians about? Why might he be reminding them?**

**Why is this such an important thing to remember?**

**In verses 3 and 4 Paul gives the content of the gospel. What is the gospel message?**

**How crucial is the cross to the entire gospel story?**

**How crucial is the resurrection to the entire gospel story?**

**Why are both stated, "in accordance with the Scriptures"? Why is this fact so important?**

The gospel can become a buzzword when we lose sight that it truly is Christ becoming man, dying for our sins, and being raised according to the promises of Scripture. Christ's death is part of the gospel because it is the good news that He took on our sins and our death on the cross. The resurrection is part of the gospel because it shows that Christ is God, meaning He can cover all our sins. The Scriptures pointed to Christ coming and dying a substitutionary death. Without an understanding that everything Christ did was a part of God's plan, we miss the truth of who God is.

**We often think of Christ's death alone as our salvation, why is the resurrection necessary for our salvation?**

**How does Christ's resurrection show He is God? How does that affect His atoning death?**

If Jesus had stayed in the tomb, then He was just a man. Any man can die. In fact, all do. Only God-Man, Jesus Christ, could have died the death that took on the sins of man and dealt with them eternally. The resurrection is the power of salvation. The cross is the place of salvation.

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**How can you use the resurrection as a tool when you share your faith with others?**

**How can it show others the plan of God?**

**How do you respond when someone challenges the reality of the resurrection? How do you proclaim Jesus' resurrection to others?**

**Who can you proclaim the resurrection to this week?**

## PRAYER

Close your time in prayer, praising God for who Christ is. Praise Christ for being God made flesh who died and who rose. Thank God for the resurrection which is the power of salvation.

## COMMENTARY

| LUKE 24:1-12

24:1. Women who had journeyed from Galilee to Jerusalem with Jesus and His disciples witnessed His death on the cross. They followed Joseph of Arimathea to the tomb where Jesus was laid and then returned home to prepare materials for anointing Jesus' body. The onset of the Sabbath delayed the completion of their task (23:55-56).

The women returned to Jesus' tomb very early on Sunday morning, as soon as the first rays of dawn provided sufficient light to illuminate their way. They planned to perform their final ministry to their beloved friend and teacher by anointing His body with fragrant spices.

24:2. Arriving at the tomb, the women encountered an unexpected situation. The heavy stone that prevented animals and humans from entering the tomb and disturbing the body had been rolled away. They must have thought someone had disturbed Jesus' body. With increasing concern they rushed to the opening.

24:3. Entering the tomb the women discovered the body was no longer there. Perhaps they assumed the priests or the Romans had moved the body to dishearten Jesus' disciples completely. The women did not expect Jesus to have risen from the dead.

Luke is the only Gospel writer to use the phrase "Lord Jesus," and the phrase occurs only here in his Gospel. Luke employed the phrase often in the Book of Acts (for example Acts 1:21; 4:33). The phrase emphasizes Jesus' nature. Jesus, the teacher and miracle worker, was also the Lord. Jesus was not a representative of God, but God Himself in human flesh (John 1:14). The women had not yet made this connection, but they soon would.

24:4. The empty tomb bewildered the women rather than led them to hope Jesus had been resurrected. Bodies can be moved (see Matt. 28:12-15), but dead people do not move themselves. Experienced Roman soldiers had confirmed Jesus' death. Jesus had raised others from the dead, but no one believed He could raise Himself.

As they stood wondering about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothing stood beside them. Matthew 28:2-7 and Mark 16:5-7 both report the presence of one angel, while Luke 24:4 and John 20:12 report two angels at the empty tomb. Matthew and Mark evidently focused their accounts on the angel who provided the powerful and joyous explanation for Jesus' missing body, while Luke and John gave a more detailed account.

24:5. The women responded to the presence of the angels with fright, as Zechariah and Mary had done (Luke 1:12,28-30). Heavenly beings reflect the glory of God, and their presence reveals our sinfulness, causing humans to fear them out of both respect and unworthiness. The women bowed down, not daring to look at the angels.

The angels gently admonished the women, asking them why they sought the living among the dead. The women had come to the wrong place to look for Jesus. A corpse might be found in a tomb, but not a living person.

24:6. The angels urged the women to remember what Jesus had told them while He was still with them in Galilee. Jesus prophesied His death and resurrection only to His inner circle of twelve disciples (9:18-22; 18:31-33). Certainly the disciples would have shared the prophecies with the larger group, including the women who traveled with Jesus (8:1-3; 23:55). The angels knew that the women, if prompted, would remember Jesus' words.

24:7. The angels repeated the teachings of Jesus regarding His death and resurrection, stressing the necessity of Jesus' death. The events of the past few days must have occurred for God to have completed His plan for redeeming lost sinners. Only through Jesus' death and resurrection could salvation be provided for all who would believe and trust in Him.

Since Jesus' prophecies regarding His betrayal and crucifixion had come true, His resurrection also must have occurred. The women and the other disciples already should have made this connection and expected the resurrection. The harsh reality of His death, however, overwhelmed their memory of Jesus' prophecy of rising from the dead.

24:8. The angels' words, however, prompted the women to recall what Jesus had said. Jesus' betrayal, trial, crucifixion, and burial began to make sense. God had been at work in Jesus, accomplishing His plan to make possible salvation for all people. As surely as Christ had died and been buried, He must have risen again. The empty tomb witnessed to the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

24:9. The women hurried from the tomb and returned to the Eleven and to all the others. Judas's suicide had reduced the 12 disciples to 11 (Matt. 27:5). However, others, such as the 2 men who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus and the 120 who followed Jesus, must have been present as well (Luke 24:13-35; Acts 1:15).

24:10-12. In Jesus' day women were not considered to be credible witnesses. This is why the Eleven (the apostles who remained after Judas' act of betrayal) did not believe the women's report about what had happened at Jesus' tomb, viewing it as nonsense. However, Peter was curious enough to run to the tomb and look for himself. When he saw only the linen cloths in which Jesus had been wrapped (23:53), he was amazed, but still skeptical.

## | 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-5

15:1. The foundation of Paul's presentation concerning the resurrection rested on the gospel that he first presented to the Corinthians. The word "gospel," of course, means "good news." This good news extends to every area of believers' lives and into eternity. Paul's purpose was to clarify the gospel for the often-confused Corinthians. Like some believers today, they had a

tendency to muddle the plain truth of God's message. Paul's reason for clarifying the gospel was to set the stage for showing that Christ's resurrection assures believers' resurrection.

Paul assured his readers that he didn't make up the message he had preached to them. Paul had received the gospel, and so had the Corinthians. Paul was part of a line of witnesses back to the historical events of Jesus' ministry. The chain of eyewitness evidence is important in affirming the historical validity of the gospel. The gospel calls for a steadfast commitment, and the words "you have taken your stand on it" remind us to embrace faith in Christ even when others doubt Him.

15:2. The first phrase in this verse states the results of a gospel that has been received and on which a believer takes a stand. That person is saved. The word "saved" describes what every person really wants. Sin has broken and corrupted every one of us, but take note of the literal meaning of "saved": "to make whole." Through Christ's death and resurrection, God has opened the way to deal with our sin problem and to make us whole.

We do not need to puzzle over the meaning of the phrase "if you hold to the message." Paul was not inferring that people can lose their salvation. Rather, he was trying to get his readers to follow through on the logical implications of the gospel—namely, to embrace the reality of their own future resurrection. To neglect to do so would be to believe to no purpose.

15:3. This verse begins Paul's recitation of the basic facts of the gospel. The fundamental center of the gospel is that Christ died for our sins, an expression that reflects His basic mission. The sin that ruins our lives and separates us from God has been dealt with by Christ.

15:4. That He was buried underscores the reality of Christ's death. He did not merely swoon as some claimed. Roman soldiers familiar with the process of crucifixion pronounced Him dead. Christ's followers who took Him down from the cross realized that He was dead.

The fact of His death makes the statement "He was raised on the third day" the crucial point of the gospel. The resurrection was God's vindication of Jesus' life and sacrifice. Though humanity in its spiritual darkness failed to see His light, God nevertheless raised Him from the dead to be a living Savior.

Nailing down specific scriptures connected to the third day is difficult. Paul may have been referring to Jonah 1:17, a passage that Jesus referred to in speaking of His upcoming death (see Matt. 12:40). Perhaps, though, Paul meant that the Old Testament as a whole bears witness to God's saving act through Jesus Christ.

15:5. In these verses, Paul chronicled three appearances of the risen Lord to His followers. Three other appearances are listed in verses 7-8. These appearances to various people at different times demonstrate that God truly raised Jesus from the dead.