

WHERE AM I LOOKING?

Luke 24:1-12

Resurrection Sunday, April 17, 2022

*‘Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here; he is risen!’*

Luke 24:6

The story was starting to sound familiar

⁵⁴ *It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.*

⁵⁵ *The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.*

Luke 23:54-56

1. The women are demoralized, but they still are doing what needs to be done
2. They think they know where to look for Jesus, but don't know how they will overcome the obstacles

. . . but then something unbelievable happens

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ *When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.*

Luke 24

1. We are together in this “wondering” moment
2. This is the first time the disciples “disbelieve for joy” (Luke 24:40-41)

The first witnesses of resurrection: the women at the empty tomb

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb

Luke 24:1-2

1. The step of faith precedes
2. The empty tomb is only the SECOND evidence for the resurrection – remember comes first

The most important “angels” are the women!

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Luke 24

1. There is power in remembering
2. The women couldn’t keep the news to themselves! (see Acts 2:22-36, 4:20, 4:33, 17:18)
3. We are still answering the “nonsense” response to the resurrection (see 1 Timothy 1:15)

Peter is running toward the cemetery

¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Luke 24:12

1. Doug’s question: Why did Peter run if he didn’t believe the women?
2. No one needed it to be true more than _____ (almost put Peter’s name there)

Looking for Jesus in all the wrong places

1) Jesus is going to find you!

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2

2) Necessity of resurrection (sorry, John Lennon)

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

1 Corinthians 15

2) Power

⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3

³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

Acts 4:33

Resources for studying Luke

Bible.org has some wonderful resources at <https://bible.org/book/Luke>

I. Howard Marshall's Greek commentary is my go to help (Eerdmans, 1978)

I relied heavily on Gresham Machem wonderful resurrection commentary at

<https://web.archive.org/web/20031019001131/http://homepage.mac.com/shanerosenthal/reformation/nk/jgmresurrection.htm>

J. C. Ryle has an interesting commentary at <https://gracegems.org/Ryle/l24.htm>

Bob Deffinbaugh has a very interesting sermon on Luke at <https://bible.org/series/luke-gospel-gentiles>.

If you want to equip yourself to explain why we believe in resurrection, Michael Horton has a wonderful, if a bit heavy, article at <https://whitehorseinn.org/resource-library/articles/risen-indeed-2/>

The great evangelist George Whitefield has a wonderful resurrection sermon at

<https://www.biblebb.com/files/whitefield/gw053.htm>

D. A. Carson has a interesting paper on the resurrection at https://s3.amazonaws.com/tgc-documents/carson/2010_resurrection.pdf

Tim Keller has wonderful summary of the gospel at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-story-of-the-bible-how-the-good-news-about-jesus-is-essential-tim-kelle/>



