

Luke 24:1-35

"The Resurrection, Repentance & Remission"

By the end of Luke 23, Jesus has been tried, crucified & laid in a tomb. The tomb has been sealed, a Roman guard (as few as 4 soldiers, but up to 16) has been set. A couple days earlier the religious leaders had approached Pilate about securing the tomb (until the 3rd day) to silence any would be rumors or deception of a resurrection. Because Jesus had announced on multiple occasions that He would rise from the dead on that day, Luke 24 is that day.

Let's recall that the Jewish way of reckoning time didn't revolve around the sunrise, but the sunset. Jesus was laid in the tomb on Friday. When the sun set, it was officially Saturday (the Sabbath). That's why they were in a rush to get His body wrapped & what spices they could, put in place after He was crucified & taken down from the cross because when the sun set, they couldn't work anymore. So, they did the best they could, but to put it plainly, it was a bit of a rush job. & The women had agreed that after the Sabbath, they would return to the tomb at 1st light Sunday morning, *not* because they anticipated the resurrection, but to prepare His body more properly... Ladies & gentlemen, the ancient Jews didn't practice any sort of embalming. They allowed for (what we might call) a rapid decay. Then they would gather the bones, place them in a stone chest called an ossuary which would then serve as the final resting place of the remains. So as the body decayed, they sought to neutralize the scent through various fragrant spices & such. This was what was on the mind of the women as the day is dawning on Luke 24.

But "spoiler alert", by the time we reach Luke 24, Jesus is risen from the dead! The single most powerful/profound act ever to occur in human history & not one gospel record details it, even vaguely. & Truth be told, it's really just one more element that speaks to truth of the records. The Gospels are "eyewitness" accounts. But no one witnessed the resurrection, so no one details it for us.

Now, plenty of people witnessed the resurrected Christ! But no one witnessed Christ's resurrection. If someone were making all this up, I'd be prone to think, that's one spectacular detail you wouldn't leave out! We'd talk about the light emanating, the fog rolling, the angels singing! It would be the crescendo of our story! ... There's none of that. There's a bit of drama surrounding the angelic appearance to the women & how the soldiers shook for fear of him & became like dead men, that's because there were eyewitnesses to that. But as for the actual resurrection. We see Jesus put to death upon the cross, placed in a tomb, & by the time the women show up Sunday morning, He's already gone...

Vs 1-3

As you read the other gospel records, you get a bit of a composite of everything going on here. They had been conversating about how they would get the stone rolled back. Because the tomb, would've been carved out of stone in the side of a hill. & What they did was dig a channel into the stone in front of the opening & roll a large stone (carved the width of the channel) into that channel. **(Image: Stone Rolled Back)** & It would prevent vandalism, desecration, robbery etc. But it wasn't something a few women were going to move, a typical stone might weigh 2, 3-4,000 lbs. It'd take several men to even budge this thing.

But when the women showed up, they found the stone already rolled away from the tomb! Matthew addresses the mystery for us & tells us that an angel rolled it back. But not so that Jesus could get *out*. (He didn't need any help). It was so the women, so that Peter & John (& anyone else for that matter) could get *in* & see that Jesus wasn't there, that He had risen from the dead!

Vs 4-8

Interesting isn't it. Their 1st reaction upon seeing the stone rolled away wasn't, "Jesus is alive!" There was zero anticipation, zero expectation of a resurrection. They were "perplexed". They were confused... Until these 2 angels made it clear. (It's interesting how that even as angels [Luke Ch 2] announced the news of Jesus coming forth from the womb, so they announced His coming forth from the tomb).

But the angels seem almost surprised, sort of shocked that the women were even there! "Why do you see the Living among the dead?" "Why are you coming to a graveyard to look for Jesus?" "Don't look for life, where there's only death." Man, if people could only learn that lesson, huh? People trying to find life, fulfillment anywhere & in anyone except where it is. *Jesus* is the way, the truth & the *life*. *Jesus* came to give us life, & that more abundantly. Everlasting life is found in Christ alone.

The angel compelled them to *remember* the words He had spoken to them. "The Son of Man must (that's the critical word here, & we'll touch on that more in a few minutes) be delivered into the hands of sinful men, & be crucified, & the 3rd day rise again." Vs 8, "& They *remembered* His words..."

Here we have the 1st stirring of hope in the hearts of the women as they remembered the words of Jesus. Don't miss it.

The empty tomb, the presence of the angels, even the words of the angels (“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but He is risen!”) wasn’t enough to change their hearts. But *His words* brought both change & cheer to their hearts... Too often the *people of God* live depressed/defeated lives because they forget the promises of the *word of God*. They connected what they *saw*, w/what Jesus *said* & suddenly, it all came together.

Vs 9-11

You ever wonder what happened to the spices? 😊 They couldn’t care less about those spices; they had the most wonderful news pent up in their hearts & they couldn’t get back fast enough! Jesus was alive! He had conquered death! He was everything they’d hoped for & so much more. *They come bursting into the place the disciples were staying, they’re all shouting, crying, laughing, they seem like they’ve lost their minds! They’ve been given the privilege to be the very 1st people to tell others of J.C. risen from the dead! “He’s alive! I’m telling you, we saw these angels, the stone was rolled away, Jesus wasn’t there!” Their words seemed like “idle tales”.* Like nonsense. One commentator (Barclay) says this word “idle tales” is a medical word used to describe the babbling of a fevered & insane man. It was like they’d lost their minds!

Vs 12

We know from John’s gospel that *he* was there as well, but Peter went into the tomb 1st. & What they saw looked like the undisturbed wrappings of the body of Jesus, but the body of Jesus *itself* wasn’t in them! *It was like His body had simply dematerialized & passed through the grave cloths. (They weren’t all disheveled as though torn through or ripped apart. They were laying there perfectly undisturbed...)* They were mesmerized, Peter “marveled” to himself... *but it didn’t make sense.* “What in the world has happened here?” That was his thought. At this point, John tells us that *he* believed. But for all this, Peter (though he can tell something powerful has happened here) still isn’t really ready to receive it... So he heads home.

Now... Beginning in Vs 13 we have a “cut scene” of sorts. & It brings into focus for us one of the most marvelous stories in all the NT. But let’s remember. It’s still Sunday morning. The tomb is empty. The women are saying, “Jesus is risen!” Peter & John have seen the empty tomb, John is buying in, but Peter isn’t persuaded. He’s not certain of what he’s seen. So the other 9 are still hesitant to concede. They aren’t yet fully convinced, *none of them* (the disciples) have seen Him...

Ok, Passover was Friday. Jerusalem was teeming w/2-3 million people from all over who'd traveled in to celebrate. Saturday was the Sabbath, so no one traveled home... Vs 13 finds two (dare I say, "2nd tier") disciples of Jesus (meaning not of the original 12) making their way back home & the camera pans diagonally down to find them walking & talking about everything that happened over the weekend in Jerusalem.

Vs 13-16

Family, we *love* everything about this scene. It's filled w/mystery, w/intrigue & wonder. & There are a few things worth briefly making mention of. First, let's address the movie that's rolling out in your mind. You can see this in your mind's eye, right? Here are these 2 men, they're walking down this dirt road (as no doubt many are, it's a bit more congested than usual because of the Passover & lots of people are leaving the city) & they're talking about the same thing that everyone else was talking about. The uproar over the weekend. How that Jesus had been taken, tried, crucified... **How their hopes had been dashed, how crazy it seemed, how fast it all happened. What were they to make of this rumor of resurrection, what were they going to do now that Jesus was gone? They're just talking about all the things... They don't have answers, they're not exchanging insights, they're just talking about Jesus.**

& As they're talking this Man kind of sidles into their company. & Who is it? It's Jesus Himself. Now, maybe you're seeing a very mysterious scene in your mind's eye. Jesus joins in w/this big hood kind of draped over His face in this very medieval fantasy kind of fashion... & I suppose that's possible, but not probable. **It's possible that they didn't recognize Him because He simply looked different after the relentless beating He'd endured prior to the cross. We know He maintained the print of the nails in His hands/feet. We know the wound from the spear was still in His side.** – It could be that His resurrection body just didn't appear exactly the way His "pre-resurrection" body did. Can we agree that we're all hoping for a few upgrades to our resurrection bodies? 😊

But, at the end of the day, the Lord was "blinding" their eyes (if you will). He was keeping Himself concealed. **Here's what I want you to see. When you start conversating w/others about Jesus. It won't be long, you'll be joined by Jesus. Mal 3:16 tells us that when those who *fear* the Lord, speak of the Lord, that He listens. He's right there.**

Jesus said, *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*¹ So as they're talking *about Him*, He's drawing near *to them*.

But think this through. Jesus has risen from the dead! He could've appeared to a priest; He could've gone to the temple. He could've showed Himself to the "who's who". But we love the Lord's desire to draw near & make Himself known to the "who's he?" These guys weren't famous. They were simple, common, every day, anonymous individuals. He's appeared to a few women (who had basically zero status), & these 2 men, who we don't even know (one of whose names doesn't even get an honorable mention). Now, we know (from later in this text & the words of Paul in 1st Cor) that He's appeared to Peter personally/privately by this point. We don't know anything about that meeting. (Peter had denied Him, so Jesus went *to Him* so as to restore Him.) **But here's the take home. If (like Peter) you have failed Jesus tremendously, you're thinking that maybe it's too late for you personally. You should know that Jesus is seeking you out uniquely, He wants to meet w/you intimately to restore you & love on you individually. (Just like He set time aside to meet w/Peter).**

Or perhaps you're just a common, everyday kind of person. Jesus has you on His radar. Think about it. The 1st morning, 1st afternoon. He's risen from the dead & He could've appeared *to* or spent time *with* anybody... He chose these every day, ordinary common folks, just like you... & just like me.

Vs 17-24

Isn't this incredible? Jesus edges His way into the company of these men & He's all, "Hey guys, you're looking kind of down. What are you talking about that's made you so sad?" & Cleopas is all, "Bro. Are You serious right now? You've got to be the only Person in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that've happened here over the last few days!"

& We can almost see the smile Jesus is holding back as He says, "What things?" He's positioning Himself in such a way as to have them share w/Him & show to Him what's in their hearts. Listen, God knows what's in our heart. But He wants to hear from you. He loves for us to pour out before Him, everything that's in our heart.

& These guys recounted everything accurately. But essentially what they said was, "We were following *after* Jesus, we had placed our hope *in* Jesus, but things didn't turn out like we thought they should, like we hoped they would." They were hoping for one thing...

¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Mt 18:20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

That Jesus would be the Man who would set them free from the bondage & oppression of Rome. But what happened, was another thing. He was crucified & their hopes were crushed.

But you should realize that this mentality is not altogether uncommon still today! People will come *to* Jesus or start following *after* Jesus because they have certain expectations. They expect Jesus will be the end of all their problems. No more worries, no more woes, only upward/onward from here! Jesus will give them a new job, maybe a new spouse, He'll heal every sickness & deliver them from every addiction... & There are times when the Lord *will do* those very things. But it doesn't always go the way we think it should go... & people wind up sorely disappointed, disillusioned & disheartened.

It's true that Jesus came to deliver us. To set us free. But not from every struggle or circumstantial hardship of this world. He came to set us free from the penalty of sin, the power of sin & eventually the very presence of sin. Perhaps you recall when J.B. was in prison. He sent to Jesus asking Him, "Are You the One we're looking for or not?" The implication was, "Hey, I thought You came to set the captives free? I'm here in prison, what are You doing?" But Jesus said, *"Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."*² That is, you don't stumble because Jesus isn't doing things exactly the way you think He should, or hoped He would.

But if your highest hope isn't to have an easy life, but like Paul the apostle said, *"...that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."*³ If that's what you're looking for, you won't be disappointed.

Vs 25-27

This undoubtedly qualified as the greatest Bible study of all time & yet not one them wrote it down for us! ☺ Can you imagine listening to Jesus expound in *all* the Scriptures, the things concerning Himself. Ladies & Gentlemen. The Bible speaks accurately of history, but it's not a history book. It speaks of places found archaeologically, but it's not a book on archaeology.

² *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mt 11:4-6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.
³ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Php 3:8-11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Whatever it speaks to, it does so w/accuracy. But make no mistake, in the *volume of the book*, it's written *of*, revolves *around* & points *to* J.C.

Listen, don't miss this. This is incredibly important to see. The problem wasn't in their head. It wasn't an intellectual issue. Often times we think the obstacle to believing lies in the head. Jesus says, "No, the problem is in the *heart*." You're "slow of heart" to believe. To believe what? Again, don't miss it. As pointed & powerful as was the witness of the angels, the witness of the women & the evidence at the tomb, Jesus doesn't point them to any of those things. He doesn't pull back His sleeves & reveal to them His *scars*, He points them to the *scriptures*. "You need to believe in all that the prophets have spoken."

The general gist is this, if you don't believe the word of God, you're a fool. "O foolish ones..." People constantly trying to attack the integrity/veracity of the word of God. Jesus says a person is a fool not to believe it all. You can't pick & choose which parts to believe. They had no trouble w/the portions that pictured/prophesied the Messiah reigning in glory. But they couldn't register the aspects of His suffering.

So Jesus took them back to Genesis. Pointed to Himself as the Seed of the woman Whose heel would be bruised, as He crushed the serpent's head. Gen 22, the picture of Ab (the Father) being willing if necessary to sacrifice his only son. Ex 12 the Passover lamb how its blood was shed to save & deliver the nation from the bondage of Egypt. He spoke of how the sin offerings, the peace offerings were all foreshadows fulfilled in the offering of Himself for the sin of the world. He pointed out the crucifixion in Ps 22 (His bones out of joint, His hands/feet pierced, the lots cast for His clothing). The Good Shepherd of Ps 23. The suffering servant of Isa 53

Perhaps He pointed to Himself as the High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, the Man who wrestled w/Jacob, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, The Princely Messiah of the book of Daniel who would be cut off, but not for Himself & who would establish a kingdom that would never end... On & on He went expounding & opening the Scriptures to them. – How it was necessary for the Christ to have *suffered* & then to enter into His glory.

Vs 28-30

Jesus, the perfect Gentlemen. He'll draw near to you, He'll walk *beside* you. But He'll never force Himself *upon* you. It's up to you if you want to receive Him & spend time *with* Him. But these guys were wise, they weren't about to let Him "move on" out of their lives. They wanted to be w/Him as much as they possibly could.

Vs 30-31

Have you ever thought, this isn't His home, but He takes the place of the host! ☺ But it only seems appropriate. Anytime Jesus is around, He's the host. Now; how was it that their eyes were opened? We really don't know. They weren't around for the last supper, so it wasn't a sacramental rite they picked up on. Some wonder if they saw the print of the nails. Ultimately, Jesus opened the scriptures, then He opened their eyes. Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God.

But the moment they realized it was Him, He vanished... Can you imagine that? You're picking your jaw up off the floor, looking at one another, you're stunned, you're shocked... you're fired up! Where it says, "Their eyes were opened" it speaks of "pulling back the curtains". Sometimes we're disappointed when the curtain is pulled back. Remember that scene from the Wizard of Oz? "Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain!" But Jesus *wants* to pull back the curtain for you. He wants you to see exactly who He is. You won't be disappointed.

Vs 33-35

These men wasted no time, they were *passionate* about proclaiming this message. & This always happens once you've met the risen/living Christ. You have something exciting to share & you want to make it known to others... As they're talking, we discover Jesus shows up in *their* midst as well. He ministers *to* them, eats *with* them. Look at Vs 44

Closing

Vs 44-47

The resurrection leads to a responsibility. We're to proclaim repentance & remission of sin in Jesus' name to all nations. We're to be His witnesses. You don't have to *debate* the news, you don't have to *defend* the news. Just *declare* the news. Christ died for our sins, He was buried & rose again the 3rd day. Believe on the Lord J.C. & you will be saved.

Prayer Points:

God we thank You for the certainty of Your Word. May we not be slow of heart to believe in *all* that has been written. We thank You for loving us. For solving the sin dilemma & reconciling us to Yourself through the work of the cross.

Jesus was crucified for our transgression. He was raised for our justification. Turn from your sin, trust in Him today. The forgiveness of sin is found in J.C. alone who is the way, the truth & the life, no one comes to the Father but through Him. Is God knocking on the door of your heart? Open it, today is the day of salvation, by grace through faith in J.C. who has loved you & given Himself for you.