

He is Risen

Luke 24:1-12

Easter 2025

Intro

Several years ago, I was teaching a 10th grade Bible class and one of the assignments that I gave the students required them to share the gospel with me...

- [expand on the fact that I played the part of a **seeker** — someone who was interested in the truth but who wasn't a believer yet...]

Now, as the students shared the gospel with me it became clear that they were making a common mistake...

- And that mistake involved **the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...**

You see, student after student would either **fail to properly emphasize the resurrection** or they would **forget to mention the resurrection at all...**[expand]

- To correct this error, I pointed my students to the Book of Acts...

And I did this because in the Book of Acts we see that ***the resurrection of the Lord Jesus*** was a focal point for the early Christians as they sought to share the gospel with those around them...

To see this for ourselves, please turn to the Book of Acts as we look at three examples of this emphasis on the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...

Acts 3:14-15 (*Peter speaking to a crowd at the Temple*)

14 "But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

15 and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses." [expand]

Now to...

Acts 10:39-41 (*Peter speaking to Cornelius' household*)

39 "And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.

40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly,

41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead."

Finally we turn to...

Acts 13:29-31 (*Paul speaking to Jews in Pisidian Antioch*)

29 "Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb.

30 But God raised Him from the dead.

31 He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people."

Now, by my count the Book of Acts records **17 direct references** to the resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as 5 additional references to resurrection in general...

- From this data it is clear to me that the early church believed that ***the resurrection of Jesus Christ was of the highest importance...***

*To further prove my point, please turn if you would to **1 Corinthians 15** to see some of what Paul wrote regarding the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...*

1 Corinthians 15:12-18

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up - if in fact the dead do not rise.

16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

In other words, if the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ did not happen then *the disciples constructed the most malicious April Fool's joke in history...*

- Because if the Lord Jesus did not really rise from the dead — then all believers are without hope — all believers are still under judgment for their sins...

You see, whether or not Jesus has risen from the dead is **the central issue** of Christianity...[expand]

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY - That as believers we would live our lives in light of the truth of the resurrection — that we serve a resurrected Lord who is alive and well...[expand]

*So, with this as our introduction, please turn to **Luke 24:1-12** as we read the passage that we will be studying this morning in a message I have simply entitled **He is Risen...***

Luke 24:1-12

1 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.

2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

3 Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.

5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?

6 He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,

7 saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' "

8 And they remembered His words.

9 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles.

11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

12 But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

We'll divide our passage into 3 sections...

1) Something's Missing (vs 1-3)

2) Shining Men (vs 4-8)

3) Strange Message (vs 9-12)

Let's move into our first section...

1) Something's Missing (vs 1-3)

1 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.

In order to get the context of this passage, please look back with me to...

Luke 23:44-56 [the Lord Jesus is on the Cross]

44 Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

45 Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." " Having said this, He breathed His last.

47 So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"

48 And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned.

49 But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

50 Now behold, there was a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man.

51 He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God.

52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before.

54 That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near.

55 And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid.

56 Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

- [expand on the Lord Jesus' death and burial and the role of the women...]

As we move forward to Luke 24, I'd like to read a quote by a Bible teacher who explains...

"Then on Sunday at early dawn [the women] made their way to the tomb, carrying the spices which they had prepared for the body of Jesus. But how did they expect to get to His body? Did they not know that a huge stone had been rolled against the mouth of the tomb? We are not told the answer. All we know is that they loved Him dearly, and love is often forgetful of difficulties in order to reach its object." [expand]

Moving on in Luke 24 to vs...

2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

As the women come to the tomb, they find that the large stone that sealed the tomb had been rolled away...

*And because this **stone** is important to understanding the truth of the resurrection, would you please turn to...*

Matthew 27:59-61

59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

It is also important to realize that the Romans had set their seal on the tomb...

We see this as we continue on in...

Matthew 27:62-66

62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,

63 saying, “Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’

64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first.”

65 Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.”

66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

David Guzik

"The tomb was secured by a seal, which was an obstacle of human authority. The seal was a rope, overlapping the width of the stone covering the entrance to the tomb. On either side of the doorway, there was a glob of wax securing the rope over the stone. You could not move the [stone] without breaking the seal. It was important that the guards witness the sealing, because they were responsible for whatever was being sealed. These Roman guards would watch carefully as the stone was sealed, because they knew their careers, and perhaps their lives, were on the line. The Roman seal carried legal authority. It was more than yellow tape barricading a crime scene; to

*break a Roman seal was to defy Roman authority. **That stone was secured by the authority of the Roman Empire.***"

[explain]

Thankfully, **stones** and **seals** are no obstacles to **angels**...

Continue with me in Matthew's gospel to...

Matthew 28:1-4

1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. [explain]

At some point the guards eventually recovered enough to flee from the tomb...[expand]

We pick up the story in...

Matthew 28:11-15

11 Now while they [the women who had gone to the tomb] were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

13 saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' 🤔

14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

So, the stone had been rolled away by an angel, the guards were gone and ***something was missing — the body of the Lord Jesus...***

We see this as we turn back to Luke 24 and move into vs 3...

3 Then they went in [into the tomb] and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

This presents a problem — it's pretty difficult to properly prepare a dead body for entombment ***when there is no dead body...*** 🤔

And things get really interesting as the women see a couple of...

2) Shining Men (vs 4-8)

4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this,

perplexed - *to be entirely at a loss; thoroughly puzzled...*

But why were these ladies so confused?...

- ***Because at this point the resurrection was still not on anyone's minds...***

None of Jesus' followers were expecting to see Jesus alive again...

- After the crucifixion the disciples had run for cover — they were still hiding out behind locked doors...

And the women looked for Jesus in the tomb because that was all that they knew...

As far as they were concerned, dead people stay dead...

But I love what Peter would later proclaim on the Day of Pentecost in...

Acts 2:22-24

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know -

23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it."

- [ex. Jesus vs Death in a street-fight — it looked like Death had won but Death couldn't keep Jesus down...]

*Likewise, anyone who is a believer is **in Christ** — and the person who is **in Christ** will not be held down by Death...*

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 (NKJV)

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. [expand]

Now, as we think about the attitudes of the followers of Jesus on that Sunday morning nearly 2000 years ago, there is a question that we should ask ourselves...

Moving on in Luke 24:4...

And it happened, as they [the women] were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.

As we study the different gospel accounts we realize that these **two men** are actually *angels*...[expand]

Now we can move on to Luke 24:5 where we see the reaction of the women as they encounter the angels...

5 Then, as they [the women] were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth,

This is the most common response to angels found in the Bible...[expand]

Continuing on in vs 5...

Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they [the two angels] said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

This is tremendous truth and it reminds me of...

Revelation 1:18 [Jesus speaking]

"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

This brings up a question for us...

Where are we seeking Jesus?...

Are we seeking Him among the ranks of *dead philosophers of the past* **or** are we seeking Him *at the right hand of the Father?...*[expand]

I love what the Apostle Paul writes in...

Colossians 3:1

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

[ex. The Reformer, Martin Luther was so depressed that none his wife Kate's counsel would help, she put on a black dress. Luther noticed it and asked, 'Are you going to a funeral?' 'No,' Kate replied, 'but since you act like God is dead, I wanted to join you in your mourning.' Luther got the message and recovered...]

Moving on in Luke 24:6, the angel continues speaking...

6 He is not here,

These are wonderful words!...

David Guzik

*"One may see many graves and tombs in Israel today. There is an ocean of tombs on the Mount of Olives, and a vast sea of graves outside the eastern wall of the temple mount. You can see the tomb of Rebekka, the tomb of David, the tomb of Absalom - but you won't find the tomb of Jesus anywhere. As the angel said, '**He is not here**'."*

Continuing on in vs 6 the angel then adds...

He is not here, but is risen!

The Lord Jesus had already spoken to His disciples about this 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 the third day.”

And just as Jesus had promised, He had conquered the grave!...

Now, to remind ourselves of the consequences of the Lord Jesus' victory over death I will read...

Hebrews 2:14-15

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same,

that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

As we continue on in Luke 24, the angel reminds the ladies in verses 6-7...

Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,

7 saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' "

The angels remind the women at the tomb that Jesus had already told them that He was going to die and rise again — and the Lord Jesus keeps His word...

Now, as we move into vs 8 it all starts clicking for the women who have come to the tomb...

8 And they remembered His words.

Like these faithful women, it is vital that we **remember** Christ's words if we are to make sense of this chaotic world...[expand]

- But before we can **remember His words** we must **learn His words**...

[expand on the importance of reading the Word of God and listening to Bible studies with a view to obeying what you read and hear...]

With this in mind let's move on to our final section...

3) Strange Message (vs 9-12)

9 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. [expand]

Continuing on in Luke 24 to vs...

10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles.

Let's quickly identify these brave eyewitnesses...

Mary Magdalene,

We read of this Mary in...

Luke 8:2

...certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,

Next in Luke 24:10 we see...

Joanna

Her husband was the steward of Herod Antipas — *(the Herod who had beheaded John the Baptist)*...

Mary the mother of James,

This **James** was James the Less, one of the disciples...

and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles.

[expand on the fact that **women** were the first eyewitnesses...]

One apologetic resource puts it this way...

"The significance of these eyewitnesses lies in understanding the role of woman in first century Judea. During the time of Jesus, a woman's testimony was considered worthless. In fact, a woman was not allowed to serve as a witness in court. If early believers wanted to fabricate the resurrection, they would have come up with witnesses who were men who had political and religious influence in their community. Instead, the writers reported the actual witnesses who were women and also close friends of Jesus. Those who recorded these events wanted to be accurate."

11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales,

idle tales - *a medical word used to describe the babbling of a fevered and insane man...*

And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

The women's strange message about Jesus' missing body and an encounter with angelic beings were just too much for the disciples to swallow...

But at least they were willing to investigate...

12 But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened. [expand]

Peter is trying to put all the pieces together...

- He's not sure exactly what is going on — but soon he would understand...[expand]

Conclusion

*Now, as we begin to wind down our time, I would suggest that everyone — whether you are a believer or a seeker — read **The Case for Christ** by Lee Strobel...*

In that book Mr. Strobel dedicates 4 compelling chapters to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and I think the material that he shares will strengthen your faith and your witness...
[expand]

And as we near the close of this study I'd like to once again quote...

David Guzik

*"You can know that Jesus rose from the dead, but unless you know His words, it won't make sense. Unless you know the life and teachings of Jesus, you don't know that the resurrection means that the payment that Jesus offered on the cross was perfect and complete. You don't know that the cross was the payment and the empty tomb is the receipt. **You don't know that death has no hold on redeemed man.** You don't know that when God's love and man's hate battled at the cross, **God's love won**. You don't know that **because Jesus was raised from the dead, we can be resurrected in Him.**"*

[give invitation for people to trust in the Resurrected Christ...]