

Raised! (Luke 24:1-12)

12 April 2020

Introduction/Background: The Gospel message is that all can have salvation through faith in the Resurrected Son of God!

- At Easter believers focus attention on the events of the resurrection of Jesus Christ! – In today's lesson we'll do just that!
- Jesus' followers were in anguish because of His crucifixion and death; initially, even hearing that something remarkable had happened didn't banish their gloom/pessimism – BUT, the resurrection's meaning transformed tragedy into hope/optimism/joy!
- Knowledge of Jesus' resurrection, and knowing that He is alive today should still transform believer's lives on a daily basis!

An Empty Tomb (Luke 24:1-3) ¹ *On the 1st day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.* ² *They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.* ³ *They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

- **1st day of the week** [the day after Sabbath, the last day of the Jewish week] was the 1st real day they could attend to Jesus' body
 - Jesus' women followers saw Joseph [of Arimathea] take His body to the tomb; they came **early** [still dark] to prepare the body [with **spices and perfumes** (Luke 23:56)] for burial which they were not able to do earlier because of the Sabbath
- They found the tomb **stone** [likely ≥4ft tall] **rolled away** – They came with no plan to deal with the stone (*see Mk 16:3*)
 - Matthew told us that a great earthquake occurred and an angel of the Lord rolled back the stone (*Mt 28:2*)
- They [1st witnesses of an empty tomb] entered [**entry** – the reason the tomb was opened] the tomb and found no body
 - What happened to the body? – moved [Mary Magdalene assumed (*Jn 20:2*)], stolen [Jewish leaders (*Mt 28:13*)], other(s)?

Full Disclosure (Luke 24:4-8) ⁴ *While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes.* ⁵ *So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. Why are you looking for the living among the dead? asked the men.* ⁶ *He is not here, but He has been resurrected! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,* ⁷ *saying, The Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?* ⁸ *And they remembered His words.*

- **While perplexed** [confused (supports resurrection's reality)] **suddenly 2 men stood by them in dazzling** [angelic garments (24:23)] **clothes**
 - **women were terrified and bowed to ground** [reverential awe (Zechariah, Mary, shepherds) in seeing heavenly messengers]
- Angel's question: **Why are you looking for the living among the dead?** – Implies they should've known/expected He was alive!
- Declaration: **He's not here, He's been resurrected! Remember He said He must rise on 3rd day?; they remembered His words!**
 - Gospels recorded such predictions (*Lk 9:22,31,44; 18:32-33; Mt 17:9,22-23; Mk 8:31*) and Jesus had also taught them
 - You cannot overstate the importance of the resurrection – Jews thought His death would prove His claims to be wrong, but His resurrection confirmed His claims were right – He was Messiah, Lord, Savior, God Himself!
 - Paul even said, without His resurrection the Christian gospel and faith of believers **is without foundation** (*1Cor 15:14*)

Complete Amazement (Luke 24:9-12) ⁹ *Returning from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest.* ¹⁰ *Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them were telling the apostles these things.* ¹¹ *But these words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women.* ¹² *Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. When he stooped to look in, he saw only the linen cloths. So he went home, amazed at what had happened.*

- **they reported all these things** [what they found/saw/heard/experienced] **to the 11 and all the rest** [larger group His of followers (the 120?)]
 - **were telling** [continual action] – they kept on telling what they had saw/heard/experienced – That's what believers do!
- Perhaps the apostles were skeptical of their story – They thought the report was **nonsense** – They **didn't believe** them
 - Thomas wasn't the only disciple who doubted – A positive spin of their doubt/unbelief could reveal that these men **cared about the truth**; they wouldn't share the resurrection unless they were certain that Jesus was alive!
- Peter took action and **ran to the tomb** for confirmation of their story indicating the struggle between hope and unbelief!
 - He had heard Jesus announce His coming death/resurrection (*Mt 16*)
 - Now Peter must have been hoping the resurrection that Jesus had predicted had indeed come to pass.
 - Peter looked in the tomb, saw only the linen clothes, and went home **amazed** [extraordinarily impressed]. Why?:
 - [1] the tomb was empty, [3] Jesus predicted these events, and everything He had predicted, came to pass,
 - [2] Jesus was alive and is today, [4] God's salvation plan for man (including Peter and us) was now complete!
 - These are the same reasons we should be **amazed** today!
- Recalling the events surrounding the resurrection should rekindle excitement and joy in the lives of all believers! – **He's Alive!**

Are you amazed or re-amazed today after being reminded of the events of Jesus' resurrection?

HE'S ALIVE! – Share the greatest news ever told!