

God Our Great Deliverer

[Luke 24:1-12](#)

“He is Risen Indeed”– March 31, 2024



Introduction

Can you remember a teacher who left an impact on your life? When you look back you may be thankful for their impact, but you also may not think of that teacher much any longer. Many people today relate to Jesus in the same way. You may think of Jesus as a historical figure, a good moral teacher, and even a prophet. The good news of Christianity is much more than that.

The good news is that Jesus is the Son of God. He was fully God and fully man. He died on a cross for our sin, rose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus will not settle for a simple head nod of acknowledgment or a thumbs up of approval. He will not be relegated to the margins of our life as if He is just a good example or moral teacher. Those who follow Jesus must “deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow Him.” ([Luke 9:23](#))

We must bow our knee to Him and trust Him with every area of our life. Giving total control of our life to Jesus can be terrifying. So before going “all in” with Jesus, we must be certain about Who Jesus is. Luke’s gospel was written to give us certainty. ([Luke 1:1-4](#)) In Luke’s gospel, Jesus is at the center of everything until chapter 24. Jesus has risen, but in today’s text, you won’t see Jesus. We are meant to ask, “why.”

Sermon Outline

1. Scene One: A Surprising Discovery Vs. 1-4
2. Scene Two: A Forgotten Promise Vs. 4-8
3. Scene Three: A Decision Point Vs. 8-12

Read & Discuss

1. Read vs. 1-4

Luke tells us that this is the first day of the week. Those traveling to the tomb are the women who, on Friday, witnessed the crucifixion and Jesus’ burial. They went to the tomb early in the morning, eager to get there. What do you think that they were thinking about? They had followed Jesus for years. They saw His miracles and heard His teaching. Jesus had given them so much hope. Now, He was dead and so were their hopes. You don’t bring burial spices to a tomb if you think the man is alive. They were sad. They went to grieve. They fully expected to find the corpse in the tomb.

Yet when they arrived, the stone had been rolled away. They were in the right place because they saw Joseph of Arimathea put His body there. But when the women arrived at the tomb, they were perplexed. The tomb was empty. They couldn’t make sense of this. They may have wondered if someone had taken Jesus’ body. We know what happened but take a moment to consider this passage of scripture as if you’ve never heard it before. Put yourself in the shoes of these women. They were tired, exhausted, discouraged, and confused. They were looking at the circumstances and were struggling.

Can you relate? When all that you can see in front of your face is a hopeless circumstance, how do you feel? It may have felt like death and darkness were in charge. Amid the confusion, sorrow, and pain, Luke provided a glimmer of hope. ([Vs. 3](#)) Luke refers to Jesus as “the Lord” - the One in charge, Who rules over all things, even hopeless circumstances and death itself. Still perplexed, they needed someone or something outside of their painful circumstances to explain what was going on.

2. Read vs. 4-8

The ladies encounter two angels. God had gone ahead of them to clear up their confusion. Has God done this with you? When has God pointed you back in the right direction?

The angels questioned the ladies about why they had come. Some people view miracles as silly, anti-science, and they look down on people who do believe in them. They might affirm a spiritual resurrection, but they are looking for Jesus among the dead. This is not what the Bible says. Jesus rose again bodily. He rose again in history. This is not an optional truth. This is essential. Jesus came to die and rise again, not only to save us from our sin, but to set creation free from its bondage to corruption. Jesus’ resurrection is the first fruits of other resurrections that are

yet to come. In the new heaven and the new earth, those who have believed in Christ will have a new body. No more tears, no more sorrow, no more death. We know this because Jesus got up from the dead.

Jesus' resurrection is an essential truth. It is the linchpin of Christianity. How can these women believe what seemed to be impossible? How can WE believe it? Some look for evidence. There is an empty tomb, Jesus' appearance to over 500 witnesses, the changed lives of the disciples. The angels didn't use evidence to explain Jesus' resurrection. They turned to God's word. ([vs. 6](#)) They offered a gentle, loving correction. Jesus HAD told them everything that was going to happen well before it happened. ([Luke 18:31-33](#)) He told them to let the words sink in. ([Luke 9:44](#))

Many people want to actually see the resurrected Jesus as proof. If the resurrected Jesus showed up, they still wouldn't believe. ([Luke 16:31](#)) The women finally believed, not because they saw Jesus, but because they heard and remembered. God's word is true and faithful. Faith comes by hearing the word of Christ. ([Romans 10:17](#))

This scripture brings up a question - what happens to a person when they die? After you die, there is resurrection. At that time, our thoughts and deeds will be laid bare before a Holy God, and we will give an account. The standard of judgment will be the perfection of God Himself. If we got what we deserve, it would be death. ([Romans 6:23](#)) But the sinless Jesus was pierced for our transgressions, our sins. Have His words sunk into your heart and mind? If they have, and you believe, you will respond. Hear God's word that gives certainty about his resurrection. Stop trusting self. Turn from your sin, repent and trust in Jesus.

Additional Reading: 1 Corinthians 15

3. Read vs. 8-12

We see three groups in these verses - the women, the disciples, and Peter. Each displayed a different response.

The women believed. Their belief bore fruit. They remembered Jesus' words and responded by telling the disciples. If you believe that Jesus rose from the dead, like these women, you will tell the good news. We have hope in the face of death. The resurrection gives us confidence that all wrongs will be made right. The resurrection gives us purpose to our otherwise meaningless life. The resurrection changes everything.

The women told **the apostles, who thought that this was nonsense.** The first skeptics of the resurrection were the apostles. Eventually they will believe, but it took time. The fact that they struggled to believe can be encouraging to us. It may take time for people to believe. Is there someone with whom you have shared the good news who hasn't responded in faith? Keep loving and praying for those people. We can have hope in God who raises the dead.

Peter investigated. Just days before, Peter denied Jesus. If what the ladies were saying was true, could that mean that Peter could be forgiven by and reconciled to Jesus? He ran to the tomb, saw it empty, and left marveling. Do you feel the same way as Peter? You want to really look into the truth of Jesus, investigating it for yourself. Don't put it off though. Make this investigation a priority.

While Jesus may be absent from this part of Luke's narrative, His words are present. Consider those words. We have just as much reason to believe that those first century people did. We have heard His words. How do you respond?

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at fbcum.org

Next week's sermon text: we turn to [Revelation 4:1-11](#) "The Heavenly Throne Room"