

Seeking Life Amongst the Dead – April 4, 2021

Resurrection Sunday

1. **Introduction:** He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Halleluiah!

a. It is very interesting that women were the first to see the empty tomb and that God chose to have women be the first witnesses of Jesus' resurrection.

b. Question: Luke tells us, "It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them." Why do you think the men so easily dismissed the eyewitness testimony of the women?

c. Question: How does God's use of the women to be witnesses to the most important event in human history help us believe?

2. **Read:** Luke 24:1-6 "But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, '**Why do you seek the living among the dead?**'⁶ He is not here, but has risen."

a. In Pastor Tim's sermon notes for Resurrection Sunday 2019 he made this observation: "The angel said remember: They remembered the crucifixion. They remembered the betrayal. They remembered how they abandoned Jesus. They remembered the burial of Jesus. But, they had forgotten that Jesus would rise."

b. Question: What do you think went through the minds of the women when they saw the open tomb?

c. Question: If you saw the tomb open would you have gone in?

d. Question: What do you think the women thought when they found that the tomb was not only open but that it was also empty?

e. Question: According to verse 4 what happened next?

f. Question: What would you do if you saw two angels standing in front of you right now?

g. Matthew 28:4-6 adds this to Luke's account, "And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.⁵ But the angel said to the women, '**Do not be afraid,** for I

know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. **Come, see the place where he lay.**”

h. Question: According to Matthew 28:5, what did the angel say to the women to reassure them?

i. Question: According to Matthew 28:6 what did the angel say to the women?

j. Question: Returning to our text, what significant question did the angel ask in Luke 24:5?

k. Question: Remember Pastor Tim’s sermon note question (2a above)? What had the women forgotten? Why did you think they remembered all the other things Pastor Tim mentioned but forgot that Jesus would rise from the dead?

l. Question: How does the women’s forgetting this critical information speak to the human tendency to ignore what we don’t understand or truly expect? Why is faith hard?

3. Read: Luke 24:6-12, “Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man **must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.**” ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.”

a. Notice that the women remembered when they were reminded. Neither the women, nor the apostles for that matter, were able to fully comprehend what Jesus had been telling them for years, that He, the Son of Man, must “be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

b. Question: Why do you think these people who had lived with and talked with Jesus failed to understand that He **must** die on the cross and then be resurrected?

c. In Luke 24:13-35 we’re told of two men who were talking on the road to Emmaus when the resurrected Jesus joined them. But **their eyes were kept from recognizing him** and Jesus asked what they were talking about. They said that they thought that Jesus of Nazareth was the one to redeem Israel but that he had been crucified. Then Jesus beginning with Moses and all the Prophets interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. The men asked Jesus to stay with them and when Jesus took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them **their eyes were opened**, and they recognized him.

d. Question: What is required for us to recognize Jesus?