

Luke 24:1-12

Introduction: This takes place very early on Sunday morning, April 5, 33 AD. Human experience consistently confirms the fact that death is final and irreversible. Nothing changes this—nothing natural, that is. But what of the supernatural? Could God raise His Messiah from the dead? (Kostenberger and Taylor)

1) Things don't always go like we have planned—24:1-3

- a) They courageously intend to complete their original task—24:1 ¹ *But on the other hand, (in contrast to 23:56) on the first day of the week, at early dawn (6-6:15 AM), they came to the tomb bringing the aromatic spices which they had prepared.*
- b) God changes things—24:2-3
 - i) What was their concern? Mark 16:3 tells us they were concerned who would roll away the stone from the tomb. God takes care of that.
 - ii) What they find—² *But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.*
 - (1) The stone was removed, not to let Jesus out, but let others in to see that it was now empty.
 - (2) Matthew tells us God sent an earthquake and an angel. The angel rolled the stone away from the tomb. (cf. 28:2) This caused the Roman guards to faint (cf. 28:4)
 - iii) What they did not find—³ *And when they entered (the tomb), they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*
 - (1) This is the first time in the NT He is referred to as “the Lord Jesus.”
 - (2) This is a fulfillment of Ps. 16:9-10

2) Being perplexed and afraid about an event is not necessarily a lack of faith—24:4-7

- a) The complex state of the women—24:4-5a
 - i) They are mentally at a loss—⁴ *And it happened that while they were perplexed (confusion and anxiety) about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothes.*
 - ii) They are emotionally in a state of fear but still respectful—⁵ *Now, as the women were terrified [emphobos] and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them,*
- b) The angels graciously speak to these women—24:5b-7
 - i) A statement disguised as a question—“*Why do you^{pl} seek the living One among the dead?*”
 - ii) A negative and positive statement—⁶ *He is not here, but He has been raised (by God).*
 - iii) A reminder of the revealed Word—*Remember how He told you^{pl},*
 - (1) When the revelation took place—*while He was still in Galilee,*
 - (2) What the revelation included—⁷ *saying, ‘It is necessary for the Son of Man (to experience 3 things) (referring to 9:22, 8-9 months prior)*

- (a) Passive # 1—*to be delivered into the hands of sinful men,*
- (b) Passive # 2—*and be crucified,*
- (c) Active—*and to rise again the third day.*”
- (3) Sometimes what we need is not new information, but rather to remember what we have already been taught.
- iv) The angel also tells them to return to Galilee where they would see Jesus (cf. Matt. 28:7)

3) Other believers may not always understand what you tell them about what God has done—24:8-12

- a) They do two things—24:8-9
 - i) They obey the command—24:8 ⁸ *And they remembered His words,*
 - ii) They publicly communicate the information—24:9 ⁹ *and when they returned from the tomb, they reported [apangelo] all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest (of the disciples).*
 - (1) Just as they had been commanded by the angel (Mark 16:7)
- b) The women are identified—24:10¹⁰ *Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna (cf. 8:1-3, her husband worked for Herod) and Mary the mother of Jacob/James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles.*
- c) The expected response of most of the Eleven—24:11
 - i) They think the women are out of touch with reality—24:11a ¹¹ *But these words appeared to them as nonsense (delirious gibberish of the sick),*
 - ii) They refuse to trust what the women have said—24:11b *and they refused to trust them (the women).*
 - iii) Luke is clear that the disciples were not waiting for the resurrection: it comes to disciples who were disillusioned, and it produces a major reversal of emotion, transforming despair into hope and action. (Bock)
- d) The exceptional response of Peter—24:12
 - i) Eager—¹² *But when Peter got up, he ran to the tomb,*
 - (1) Even after he had denied Jesus three times a couple of days earlier.
 - (2) John goes with Peter (cf. John 20:2-10; Luke 24:24)
 - ii) Observant—*and having stooped down, he saw the strips of linen cloth lying by themselves;*
 - (1) Doorways to tombs were normally less than 3 feet tall.
 - iii) Thoughtful—*and he departed toward his home, marveling [thaumazo] (or marveling to himself) at what had happened.*
 - (1) This is not from a lack of faith, but struggling in his attempt to understand what could have happened. (NET)

4) Things for us to remember:

- a) This is when God the Father officially determines Jesus to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:4). Everything that Jesus ever claimed or taught about Himself is true.
- b) It was not the evidence of their own eyes—an empty tomb—or even the words of angels, that convinced them. Rather, it was the memory of the Word the Jesus taught and now confirmed by His resurrection that brought them to realize that He had risen! (Kevin Zuber, Moody Commentary)