

Luke 24:1–12

“Christ’s Great(est) Work”

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What don’t and do the Galilean women find? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Luke 24:1–12 prepares us for the morning sermon on the coming Lord’s Day. In these twelve verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that (a) our service to the Lord often turns out to be quite different than we thought, (b) the main thing is not what we do but what the Lord does, (c) the great thing that the Lord has done is His death and resurrection, and (d) His resurrection is such a glorious work that those who begin to realize it respond with wonder and worship.

Saturday, November 6, 2021 • Read Luke 24:1–12

Questions from the Scripture text: On which day does this occur (v1)? What time of day? Who was with them? To where do they come? Bringing what? But what do they find (v2)? Where do they go (v3)? What do they not find? What is their condition as a result (v4)? But who stood by them? Wearing what? Now what is the condition of the women (v5)? What do they do? But what do the men ask? What do the men announce in v6? What do they remind them that Jesus had done? Where? What three things had Jesus said must happen to Him (v7)? What do the women do in v8? Where do they go in v9? Whom do they tell? Which women, specifically, tell it (v10)? To whom? To the apostles, what did the words seem like (v11)? How do they respond to the women? Whom does v12 mention responding differently? Where does he go? At what speed? What does he do when he gets there? What does he see? Then where does he go? And what does he do?

He is risen (as the angels say in v6). It is fleshly to desire that our Christianity be about what we do—or even about what God’s grace enables us to do. And it’s a commendable thing that these precious women loved our Lord dearly and wished to serve even His dead body. But, His body didn’t need this particular sort of service, because He had already planned and accomplished something far greater than they could imagine. The passage communicates this through the play on the word “find.” They did find the stone rolled away. They did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Now, their being “greatly perplexed” (v4) doesn’t necessarily mean that they were coming here to make religion all about their service. The passage itself chalks it up to a faulty memory (cf. v8). But there is that fleshly tendency in all of us, and it gets exposed when God surprises us with something better than what we had wanted to do for Him.

It’s often that way with God: we wish to serve in a particular way, but He doesn’t cooperate, because He has something infinitely better. It’s often this way, for instance, with those who cut their Christian teeth on man-centered worship with various parts and performances that have been invented by man, but come to a better understanding (or to a congregation with a better understanding). They can hardly be disappointed that they no longer get to do their formerly favorite part of worship, when they learn how personally and powerfully Jesus Himself leads all of the Scripture-commanded worship actions from glory. These precious women at the tomb can hardly be disappointed that they didn’t get to bathe the body of Jesus in spices and oils, when they learn that this is because He has risen from the dead.

Christianity is actually pretty simple. You can’t bring Him down from heaven or raise Him up from the dead (cf. Rom 10:5–10). Believe in your heart. Confess with your mouth. Walk/live according to this faith. Love Him in the ways that He gives to you to do so. Don’t be disappointed if you don’t get to do all of the seemingly more amazing things that your love for Him might have wanted.

This is a glorious reality. The women in v4 are greatly perplexed. The “eleven and all the rest” (v9) are not able to believe in v11. v12 leaves us with Peter “marveling.” Something has happened that so defies comprehension that they need angels to command them to “remember” (v6) just so that they will be enabled to remember (v8) that Jesus has actually told them exactly what would happen (v7).

The resurrection of Christ can seem, to someone who grew up in church, to be an easy thing to believe. After all, he’s heard the words, sung the songs, hunted the eggs. But if this reality isn’t enormous to you—if it isn’t something that it takes the almighty power of God just to realize and even then you feel yourself dwarfed by it—then you’re probably not really believing it.

Think about these women who had been told this directly by Jesus. Still, it seems so far out of the range of possibility that they don’t even remember until this encounter with the angels.

Think about the eleven, who had seen Him do so many miracles, including multiple resurrections. And they had heard Him tell about His coming death and resurrection on many occasions. Still, when it’s “just” faithful women in front of them, rather than gleaming angels, “their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them” (v11).

Think about Peter, who is probably showing more faith at this point than the others (we find out from John that he had sped and beat Peter there but still that he didn’t go in), but he can still hardly believe it. He marvels.

The resurrection is such a glorious reality that it takes the miraculous work of God in the heart to enable us to believe it and appreciate its greatness.

What are ways that you thought you were going to serve the Lord, but didn’t end up getting to? What evidence is there in your own heart and mind that you’re really embracing the greatness of the truth of the resurrection?

Sample prayer: Lord, You are worthy of all love and service. Thank You for all of the ways that You have given unto us to love You and serve You. Forgive us for when we are disappointed at not getting to love and serve You in other ways, and remind us that our religion is really about Your glorious actions. Exert Your almighty power to sustain us in believing, and in confessing, and in walking by faith we ask, through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP157 “Immortality & Resurrection” or TPH357 “The Day of Resurrection!”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Luke 24 verses 1 through 12. These are God's words. 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. But when they found the stone rolled away, excuse me.

Um, let's start over the pickup. Luke 24 verses 1 through 12. These are God's words. Now, in 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, but they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus and it happened as they were greatly perplexed about this.

That holds two men stood by them in shining garments Then as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, They said to them. Why did you why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but it's risen. Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee?

Say the son of man must be delivered into the hands of simple, men and be crucified and the third day rise again and they remembered his words and they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the 11 and to all the rest, It was Mary Magdalene Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and the other, women with them, who told these things to the apostles, and their words, seemed to them like idle tales and they did not believe them 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 So far. The reading of God's inspired and an errand towards. So it is the new Sabbath. It is the Lord's Day or as verse 1 calls it. The first day Sabbath Sabbath and Week the same word and we have just had that word they rested on the Sabbath.

According to the commandment, We know that that Sabbath from John 19 was a high day and there was a Sabbath that belonged particularly to the Feast of Unleavened Bread and there's probably another Sabbath the weekly Sabbath in between those two depends on if this is AD 29 or 8030.

And we're not sure whether there are three, Sabbaths in a row, or just the two sevenths in a row. Seems probable that it's three. That would make the Lord Jesus to have died on the Thursday afternoon, but if he died on the Friday afternoon and there was just one combined weekly Sabbath and unleavened bread Sabbath.

And then now it is the first day sabbath, that's how Luke 24 begins. There are many people who don't believe that the the Lord has changed the day of Sabbath observance. The consecrated and holy day from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week.

This is something that is obvious from the Bible between his resurrection. Now and when he would ascend the Lord Jesus gathers, the only particular days in which has gathering with the Apostles and was gathering to. The church are mentioned our first days of the week. If you are dependent upon the Lord, Jesus appearing to you while you're walking to Emmaus or walking through the walls because you're in a room with locked doors, then Jesus is the one who determines when you gather with him and he gather them on the first day of the week, They didn't get to pick the day.

That the Lord Jesus would pour the Holy Spirit out from heaven and gather the church in her first, great worship gathering her first, great, holy assembly, the Lord Jesus. Did that. On the first day of the week, We learned from first Corinthians 14 that in the New Testament period, before the New Testament was completed.

The the church was receiving Psalm selections prayers and and preaching directly from the Holy Spirit. And so, it wasn't man who was picking the time of the worship gathering. They were dependent on when the Holy Spirit would do this. And yet in first and second Corinthians, especially those very books in which that It took place, you see that they were gathering on the first day of the week when they were going to set the collection, aside on the day that they were gathered not as part of the worship service, we know that because the apostle didn't want that to happen at all during the hopefully entire winter, that he was there in Corinth and yet the day that they would be gathered, would be the first day of the week.

And then, of course, the Apostle, John in his revelation, refers to something that everyone would understand what it is, and that is the Lord's Day. So even if you don't recognize that this could say, first day of the Sabbath or first day, which is the Sabbath you have a quite possibly epics agentical.

Genitive, if you want to get technical about the Greek, but it is the Lord's day. It is the Sabbath there's a day for being gathered unto Christ and it may be the third Sabbath in a row or just the second but

that would be the only time in history in which you could have three.

Now on the first day, Sabbath very early in the morning, they and certain women with them came to the tomb, bringing the spices, which they had referred. And here is our first lesson in this passage. And that is that our part in the Lord's work, and in this life, and the Lord's work in, his church is often a surprise to us.

They thought that their way they were going to serve the Lord today was by applying spices and fragrant oils to the linen wrapped body of the Lord, Jesus, that, that they would have enough. That would soak through the, the linen cloths, but in which Joseph of Arimathea had wrapped the body.

And remember, they observed the tomb, and they observed how the body was laid. And so they knew the particulars they thought they were going to take all these spices and fragrant oils that they had prepared few days ago and the very first chance they could They didn't know that this was a Sabbath yet and they thought that the Sabbath or Sabbaths were over The very first chance they could, is they had opportunity.

They would be applying the spices in fragrated oils, interestingly curiously and we can't do anything more with it because the Bible doesn't tell us anything more with it. We have no idea what ended up happening with those spices and fragrant oils because they didn't get to use them. This is often true for us, especially for you.

My dear children, who have your lives out in front of you and people ask you things, like, what's your favorite subject? And what are you gonna do? And are you gonna go to college? And and high school kids confidently. Assert sometimes. Well, I'm going to be a missionary here, whatever.

And maybe you will be, You may be interested to know that one of the first things, when I asked your mother to court, not the very first response, but one of the first responses was, she wasn't sure how this, you know, how we could end up being married because I was called to be a pastor and she was sure that she was going to be a missionary.

Well, we don't know how we're going to get to serve the Lord in our life, and we also may not even know how we're going to get to serve the Lord today. You get up thinking of the ways that you when you went to bed last night. Thought that in the morning you were going to get up and you were going to serve the Lord in this particular way.

And then you get up in the morning and you come to the tomb with your spices as it were, and you discover that instead of applying spices and fragrant oils to the physical flesh and bones of Jesus Today, you are going to be Jesus's messenger courier to go and tell the apostles about his resurrection days often go differently.

And so first lesson is we don't always get to serve the Lord in the manner that we thought we were going to. You may have put lots of preparation into it And so don't be frustrated when in his Providence you are presented with having to serve him in a different way.

So they come they find the stone rolled away from the tomb. They go in. They do not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Okay. So plan, spices and fragrant oils is over and it happened as they were greatly perplexed. About this of a hold two, men stood by them and shining garments Then as they were afraid and bowed their faces of the earth, they said to them.

Why do you seek the living among the dead. He is not here, but is risen. So here's our next lesson, whatever it is that we think we are going to do that. We are planning for that. We desire from the Lord. We would have the privilege of doing to serve him.

The Lord's work is always more about what the Lord does than by what we do. They thought they could honor the body of the Lord Jesus and maybe preserve a little bit longer the body of the Lord Jesus, by the application of spices and fragrant oils. And if they got to do that, then it would have been the Lord using them to honor his body and the Lord using them to preserve however much longer or maybe just mitigate the smell of the rotting or whatever it is that the spices and fragrant oils would do, but the Lord had, you would say one up to them but it's like, infinitely infinitely up to them and the honoring, and preserving of his body because he had raised his body from the dead.

And, and that is a good reminder. That even if the Lord does employ us, it has more about what he does. Then what we do and often the Lord works despite us, or without us, and that is his prerogative, and it's always about the Lord's work. The third lesson comes in this next part.

Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee saying the son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified and the third day rise again. Well, we have been following the Lord Jesus, with these women, or rather, these women have been following with the Lord Jesus.

From Luke chapter 8, they have followed him from Galilee, they've been twice identified as the ones who

followed him from Galilee or came with him from Galilee. You see that in verse 49 of the last chapter of the women who followed him from Galilee. You see that in verse 55 of the last chapter, the women who had come with him from Galilee.

If we were to go back to chapter 8 at the beginning of the chapter, certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna. The wife of Clusa Herod Stewart, and Susanna and many others provided for him from their substance.

And so he is ministering there in Galilee and now we have again, verse 10, Mary, Magdalene and Joanna, marry the mother of James, and the other women. And so these women, we have followed, have followed, the Lord Jesus from Galilee. And what the angels are saying is not just, you know, remember that.

He told you one time a long time ago in Galilee, they're the angels are saying. This has been the main thing that Jesus was going to do from before you met him and ever since you met him, he's been telling you that this is the main thing that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and the third day rise again.

Now, the Lord Jesus had done a lot of other things, He'd gone around preaching he'd given instruction about the kingdom. He had, displayed his power. He displayed his mercy in his miracles, the Lord. Jesus had done many things, but the main thing that the Lord Jesus had come to do, was to suffer and die and rise again.

And he had been telling them that and yet the it does not seem to have sunk in because says in verse 8 and they remembered his words. We often need to be reminded of this, even when we have seen that it is the main thing. We often lose sight of it in the everyday ends and outs, nitty-gritty details of life.

That the main thing is that Jesus suffered and died and rose again. There are a lot of other things that he has done a lot of other things that he will do. But the main thing is always that he has suffered and died and risen again. So not only is the Lord's work, Always more about what the Lord does than the part that He gives us in it.

Which part is often not what we thought it was going to be. But the Lord's work always has at its core that the Lord Jesus suffered and died and rose again. Christ crucified and risen is the great message of the whole Bible is the great message of the gospel, and it is the great truth of your life.

So what you do may be different than you thought, what the Lord does through it, or despite it or without, it is even more important. And the greatest thing that the Lord has done for you in your life is suffering and dying and rising again in his life. And this resurrection is in the last place.

The last lesson is that this resurrection is a glorious. Resurrection, So, glorious. In fact that the women who have remembered the words do better than most of the Apostles because the angels, tell the women, the words, the women, remember the words, and then They returned from the tomb and tell all these things to the 11 and to all the rest in verse 9.

But their words seem to the apostles like idol, tales verse 11, and they did not believe them. And now, here is the great mercy of God. Peter is starting to prepare to be one who strengthens the brethren when he is restored. Like Jesus has told him to John goes with him.

We know that from the gospel of John but Luke is especially highlighting Peter here as he is, especially highlighted Peter on a number of occasions in the last few chapters. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb Stopping down. He saw the linen cloth sliding by themselves and he departed marveling to himself at what had happened.

So the Lord Jesus gave to Peter the Holy Spirit gave to Peter, not to respond. Merely with the disbelief. That was the general response of the Apostles and verse 11, but to, to run to the tomb and to stoop down and marvel at what had happened. And this is what faith does it understands that what has happened in the resurrection of Jesus is marvelous and other words, we are not able to understand or explain the details of how the Lord has done it, we just respond with wonder and worship that the Lord has done it.

And I suggest that if we are not marveling, if it is, if it has not gotten into our bones, as it were that the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, is this glorious divine event that he who was dead, three days. And three nights is physically bodily alive with a transformed and glorious body If that doesn't make us wonder, and Marvel and worship.

Then we are not really grasping the resurrection because the resurrection was so glorious of truth that the apostles who had heard the same words as Jesus as the women had from Jesus. And who were told the words of the angels, that the women relayed to them from the angels, They still were unable to believe.

They had seen Jesus, do all of those miracles. They had heard Jesus over and over again tell them about his suffering and death and resurrection. And yet, even with all of that, when it happened, it was a

truth too big for them at first to lay, hold of and marvel at and be amazed at.

And yet the Lord did grant unto them. Eventually, the faith to believe that it's true and to like Peter, in verse 12, to whom has been, given this faith to marvel at what has happened, that the Lord Jesus as risen again from the dead and the Lord who gave that faith will give you faith.

If you are not overwhelmed at the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead, then you are not really understanding what has happened. You're not really laying hold of that fact, If we understood our Bibles, well, we would know that. That's what Psalm 16 tells us about, which is why we'll sing Psalm 16 when we're done, or at least arrangement of a portion of it, with 157, from the blue.

That's what Peter who leaves the tomb in verse 12 marveling. That's the text that he would preach one of the texts that he would preach on the day of Pentecost when he's preaching on the resurrection. And he says, set in the psalm that Jesus's body would not see corruption.

And we know he's talking about Jesus, because David died and his body saw corruption. So Psalm 16 was not about David, It was about Jesus and that is a glorious marvelous truth and it is because of the resurrection of Jesus that we can know that we will be resurrected and that we will have in God's presence fullness of joy.

Even as a Jesus at God's. Right hand has pleasures forevermore, and we in him and with him pleasures, forevermore and the presence of God. So four marvelous lessons from this passage one, your service may not end up being what you thought it was to, as much more about what the Lord does through you.

Despite you where without you a three, the great thing that the Lord has done is suffering dying and rising to get, and four has rising again as a marvelous. Glorious truth that when the spirit grants us to lay hold of it makes us marvel and worship. And if if we haven't found ourselves marveling and worshiping we could look to God, the Holy Spirit, ask to him, ask him to give that to us.

And if we are marveling and worshiping, we can ask Him to increase, our wonder, that we might worship all the more Amen. Let us ask the Lord have to do that, Her father in heaven. We thank you for the reminder about our service unto you. When we pray that you would help us to be content with your providence and to rejoice over whatever service you do.

Give us. We bless your name that your work in Austin through us is always more about what you do, Then what we do, give us humility to accept that desire to see what that will be. That we may rejoice over it as we look forward to loving you and serving you.

And knowing you our whole lifelong, We bless your name, especially for your suffering and death and resurrection, make our Christianity, our walk with you and thinking about you, and loving you and serving, you always dissenter upon your death and resurrection, as you have made it to the great display of your glory and cause us to wrestles sincerely and truly with the greatness of the display of your glory and the resurrection that it will not be to us a lifeless idea that we can not our heads about and be unaffected, but that it will be to us a glorious reality that we live.

In the light of that Jesus has risen from the dead and then it's by his resurrection power that we walk and in as a life now and that it's his resurrection body to which our bodies will one day be conformed in our resurrection and that it is in Him and his resurrection that we will have fullness of joy and your presence and pleasure at your right hand forevermore, even the pleasure of Christ himself.

Then whose name. We ask it. Amen.