

## He Has Risen

### Introduction and Review

- We have already looked at the death of Christ as recorded by the gospel writers Mark & Luke.
- We saw God display mighty miracles surrounding the death of Christ – darkness at midday & the temple curtain torn in two.
- We have also seen God save two unlikely sinners during the time of Christ's death: a thief & a soldier!
- Today we will consider events immediately following His death.

### I. The Empty Cross (Lk. 23:50-56)

#### A. Request of the body (v. 50-52)

*The bodies of crucified criminals were usually left hanging & then thrown in a common grave. But God had already prophesied a different plan for the body of Jesus (Is. 53:9).*

#### B. Burial of the body (v. 53-56)

*Burial involved washing the body, anointing it with aromatic ointments, clothing the body, wrapping hands & feet in linen strips, and wrapping the face with a napkin or handkerchief (Jn. 11:44). There was not enough time to complete the burial ritual for Jesus (Lk. 23:53-54). **The Jewish day ended at 6 pm (Gen. 1:5b).***

**APPL:** God ensured that the truth regarding the body of Jesus was recorded for all those who would believe. Jesus literally died & his body was literally buried.

### II. The Empty Tomb (Lk. 24:1-12)

#### A. Search for the body (v. 1-4)

*The gospel of Luke reveals the devotion & dedication of women to the ministry of Christ (Lk. 8:1-3). They **loved** Jesus & wanted Him to have a **worthy burial** (Lk. 23:55-56). **So they got up early on Sunday morning – at daybreak.** “the first day of the week” (Sunday) means that things have radically changed for the believer: the tomb is open, the body is gone, two angels are present & these believers are perplexed. **Sometimes we can find ourselves perplexed in ministry when our expectations are radically crushed; God is still actively involved & working His plan (Rom. 8:28).***

#### B. Answers regarding the body (v. 5-7)

*God knew that these devoted & dedicated women would need answers – they were confused & frightened. The message from the angels is: 1) Stop thinking & responding to Jesus as if He is dead. 2) Jesus has conquered death & is no longer in the tomb. 3) Jesus has fulfilled redemptive prophesy.*

#### C. Response to the resurrected body (v. 8-12)

*The women **recovered** from confusion & fear, **remembered** Jesus prophesied these events and **returned** to tell the other disciples. **Sometimes we must be reminded of truths that we already know in order to set us free from confusion & discouragement.** The names are given to reveal the kind & character of people that God may use: **Mary Magdalene** (demon-possessed – Lk. 8:2), **Joanna** (wife – Lk. 8:3), **Mary** (mother) & other women like them (Lk. 8:3). **God uses unlikely people in ministry – women were considered to be unreliable witnesses. The gospel establishes the worth of women & many other oppressed people (1Co. 1:26-31).** Even though Jesus had told the apostles about His death & resurrection, when it happened they were unwilling to believe it – **it's much too incredible & women were the only witnesses** (v. 11). **Peter has to see it for himself & he leaves the scene marveling or wondering what happened (v. 12) – marveling & wondering, not believing.***

**APPL:** Seeing is not believing – Judas, Religious Leaders (cannot deny miracles), crowds (fed), etc. Even His own followers have difficulty believing the limitless power of Jesus – salvation, storm & resurrection. Jesus calls it “slow of heart to believe”. What about you are you slow to believe? What does it take for you to believe God – His word alone, signs, miracles, visions, dreams...? Has God been speaking to you through an unlikely source; someone you consider unreliable, unworthy, undesirable...?

## CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters when you consider how patient and gracious Jesus was with these first century believers, doesn't it stir your love for Him? When you consider His patience & gracious dealings with you, doesn't it stir your love for Him? When you consider how Jesus waits on you, repeats the same things to you, forgives you when you fail & will not trust His, comforts & encourages you, then certainly you can see that Jesus is worthy of your praise, love, trust & obedience. You have already been convinced that He has risen, so will you go & tell somebody? Will you take the good news that Jesus is alive, seeking & saving the lost, ruling from heaven & He's coming again to set all things in order (Mt. 28:16-20)? That's our commission from the Risen Savior – **Go, make disciples, baptize & teach them** – I'll be with you!

If you are not a Christian, this good news is for you today. Jesus died in accordance with the Scriptures, He was buried and on the third day He was raised from the dead in accordance with the Scriptures. Therefore will you trust Him today & be saved...?

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