



The Truth of the Resurrection

Luke 24:1-12

- Easter is one of the most exciting times of the year, especially in the life of the church. We start to see everything come back to life from the winter months. We're surrounded by beautiful sights and pollen.
 - o Of course, in Georgia we may have the occasional frozen pollen tornado. Just another day of Spring in the South.
- We gather together with family and friends. We have egg hunts for the kids.
 - o For some reason, my kids claim it is impossible to clean their rooms, but they move pretty fast for Easter Egg hunts.

- Then, there is our time of worship of Easter. It's the pinnacle of the Gospel story. Jesus is alive, and we are gathered with thankful hearts to celebrate the risen Lord.
- We have been going through the Gospel of Luke since Advent and Christmas. We've been walking step by step through Jesus' life and ministry leading to the cross and the resurrection.
- What Luke desired for Theophilus is what God desires for us today – *to know the truth of the Gospel.*

Main Point: **The truth of Jesus' resurrection is at the center of the Christian faith.**

- When we understand and acknowledge this truth, it changes everything about our lives and about eternity.
- John Chrysostom - **Christ is risen, and you, O death, are annihilated! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life reigns!**
- This story is true. A few thoughts that point to us to this truth.

I. A change in plans

- a. VERSE 1
- b. After the crucifixion, there was a perplexing dynamic with the disciples and those close to Jesus. They were shocked from the events of Jesus' death.
- c. They had responded in various ways. Some running away. Peter denying the Lord. Others overwhelmed with grief. I am sure all of them were worried about the future. What does Jesus' death mean for them?
- d. Proverbs 16:9 – A man plans his way, but the Lord orders their steps.**

- e. The details of the resurrection remind us of this truth – while we have concerns or plans for the future, God is in control.
- f. There is what we are doing. And there is what God is doing.
- g. The women that had went to the tomb were going to prepare the body with spices like they would in any other death of someone they loved.
- h. But God had other plans.

II. A divine appointment

- a. VERSE 4
- b. This was all a part of the plan of God. When they didn't find the body of the Lord, the Bible says they were perplexed.
- c. The angels that were there pointed to one of the most beautiful truths in all of scripture. It was a divine appointment ordered by the Lord.
- d. They said – **Why do you seek the living, among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen!**
- e. They were terrified at the very sight of these angels. But this divine appointment revealed the most consequential moment in human history.
- f. ***God has a plan.***
- g. He has a plan and purpose for your life and mine. We can't forget that in the context of the day-to-day minutia of life.
 - i. We go about our days from one appoint to the next. Going through routine after routine.

ii. But we need to be reminded that not of this is random or by chance. God puts people in your path. He has a purpose for your life. He wants to use you for His glory.

h. Even in the most unexpected of places – God is at work. Just as He was at work the morning of the resurrection.

III. A hard reality

a. VERSE 7

b. The women at the tomb were confronted with a reality in this divine appointment.

c. It was necessary that Jesus would die and be crucified. Why was that necessary?

i. In the beginning man had perfect communion with God. There was no sin.

ii. Adam and Eve sinned and the relationship with God was broken. God is perfect and righteous.

iii. Reconciliation is costly and sacrificial. A penalty for our sin debt had to be paid.

iv. And so, Jesus went to the cross for you and me. He died and took on the weight of our sin – past, present, and future – all so that we could be reconciled with Him.

d. It's interesting the way this conversation comes about at the tomb. The angels say – Don't you remember Jesus told you this?

e. They explain it to them, and then they're like – Oh yeah, I remember that.

f. It is interesting just how easily they all forgot the very thing that Jesus said He was going to do. That's a pretty important detail.

- g. Of course, we still have some of the same struggles today. We forget about the faithfulness of God. We forget that He has a plan.
- h. Sometimes, we do really dumb things that cause us pain and worry.
- i. People used to say, if we could just get people more access to information things in society would get better and life would be more enjoyable.
 - i. Well after a few decades of the world wide web, I am here to tell you the problem wasn't a lack of information.
- j. The problem is the condition of the human heart.
- k. We have to be confronted with this truth to seek repentance and reconciliation with God.

IV. A confirmation of facts

- a. VERSE 12
- b. Peter ran to the tomb to see this for himself. Funny thing is that John recorded in His Gospel that he and Peter both ran to the tomb, and he outran Peter. Now, I'm not casting doubt on that, but Luke seems to gloss over that detail a little.
- c. Come and see. That's the call of God today.
- d. When you examine the events of the resurrection, I believe you will come away with the same bold confidence. This is the truth of the Gospel. Jesus died and rose again.
 - i. We have eyewitness accounts. We have people who saw his body buried and people who ate and fellowshiped with the resurrected Lord. We have more manuscripts of the Gospel accounts than most extra-biblical ancient

writings we believe to be true historically. The tomb is still empty! You
can see it today!