

EASTER

4-9-23

Luke 24:1–3 (ESV) O/H

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, *Mary Magdalene and Mary mother of James* 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.**

Jesus suffered the most cruel physical death – plus suffering for all of our sins resulting in the overwhelming anguish forcing Jesus to cry out, “My God My God why have you forsaken ME!” Jesus, fully man and yet fully God, hangs on the cross a God forsaken man. After a three-year ministry, after the Cross, what happened that first EASTER Sunday? **First of all, we do not have any evidence that any of Jesus’ followers thought HE would rise from the dead. None of them! Embarrassingly, Jesus enemies were keenly aware that Jesus had proclaimed HIS resurrection because they asked Pilate to post a guard at Jesus’ tomb so that no one would steal the body and thus perpetuate HIS fraud.**

Matthew 27:62–64 (ESV)

⁶² The chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”

With no one believing that Jesus would rise from the dead, who would be the first ones HE would reveal HIMSELF and Why? Luke 24:1–3 (ESV) clearly records *Mary Magdalene and Mary mother of James are the first to go to the tomb. The book of Mark records that Salome the wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John was with them. Having seen Jesus crucified and placed in the tomb, they were surprised not to find Jesus' body EASTER morning. We have to appreciate the courage and dedication of these three women going to the tomb while the apostles were hiding behind locked doors. Although the tomb was empty, two angels appeared to the women.*

Luke 24:5 (ESV) O/H

Two angels said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here but HE has risen.”

The angels tell the women to go and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen. As the women are leaving the tomb, Matthew records that Jesus appeared to them. Here is a spiritual lesson. When we act on what we know, more will be revealed to us. Thus, we can deduce why Jesus met with these women first. They were at the crucifixion, saw Jesus placed in the tomb, and early EASTER morning went to the tomb to prepare HIS body for burial. Although they did grasp the resurrection, they were honored for acting on what they did know. *These women are the ones who carried the message of the resurrection to the apostles.*

Luke 24:10–11 (ESV)

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.**

Even hearing the message from the women, the apostles did not believe them. The second recorded appearance of Jesus is with two unknown men on the road to Emmaus. Why these two men and what did Jesus tell them?

Luke 24:13–19 (ESV)

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ **While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.** ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” ¹⁹ And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.”

These men were talking and discussing things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. Therefore, Jesus met with them. They did not understand the resurrection and they erroneously identified Jesus as just a prophet when HE is in fact the Son of God.

Again, the spiritual lesson. When we act on what we know, more will be revealed to us. This is the perfect time for Jesus to do a grand appearance. But HE doesn't! Pay close attention to what Jesus does do!

Luke 24:25–27 (ESV) O/H

“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the **prophets have spoken!** ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**

To confirm the truth of HIMSELF, Jesus takes them for walk through the Bible; all the Scriptures, Moses and all the Prophets. Lesson: The Bible speaks of Jesus!

Luke 24:30–31 (ESV)

³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And **their eyes were opened,** and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

The more we read the Bible the more Jesus will reveal to us.

Luke 24:32 (ESV) O/H

They said to each other, “**Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?**”

Their hearts burned within them while Jesus talked to them and opened the Scriptures to them. Jesus is still alive! Jesus still speaks! Even today when we read the Scriptures, our hearts will burn within us as Jesus opens the Scriptures to us.

After the testimony of the three women and the two men, Jesus now meets with the Apostles behind lock doors.

Luke 24:44-45 (ESV) O/H

Jesus himself stood among them. ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you, **“Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”** ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

As on that first EASTER the Risen, Living Jesus still speaks and opens the Bible to us. “Do you believe this?” If so, believe Jesus speaking to us this morning.

John 11:25–26 (ESV)

²⁵ Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

Fact: Jesus is alive and still speaks!

Fact: When we act of what we know, more will be revealed.