

# Raised!

April 12, 2020

Luke 24:1-12

The world is filled with uncertainty due the COVID-19 pandemic; *'Shelter in place', 'Social Distancing', 'Wear a Mask', 'Online Worship'*. The number of cases grow exponentially (as does the death toll). How long will it last? Will my family and I be OK?



We would do well to remember that ever since sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden, doubt, pain, suffering, sin, and death have been a normal part of our existence. Yet, despite that reality God has been working. His greatest work was seen in the most unlikely place.

In today's text, the women who have been following Jesus are coming to His tomb. They are bringing the necessary spices with which to bury His body. Everything they hoped was true has come crashing down. With heavy spirits they approached the tomb.

**HE IS RISEN!**  
**HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

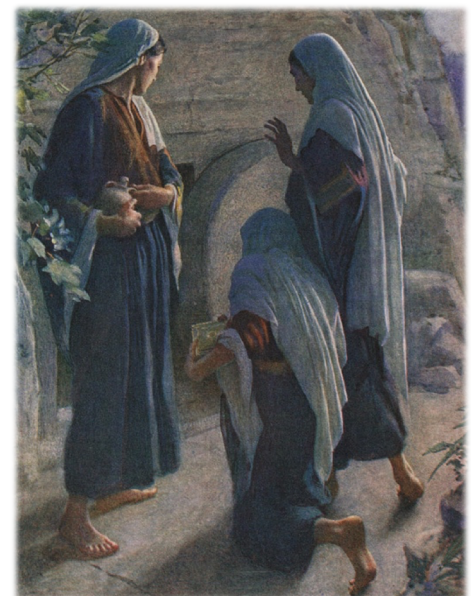
Instead of seeing the dead body of their Teacher and Lord they are confronted with two angels who seemingly rebuke them! ***"He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again'"*** (vv. 6-7).

The uncertainty of the world has been eclipsed by the surety of the resurrection. Those women left the tomb different people from when they arrived. Their sorrow was turned into joy. The events of the world often bring sorrow but don't let them hinder your faith. Our Lord and Savior lives! Praise be to God that He loved us so much He sent us His Son. (Excerpts by Travis Biller)

## Discovered (Luke 24:1-3)

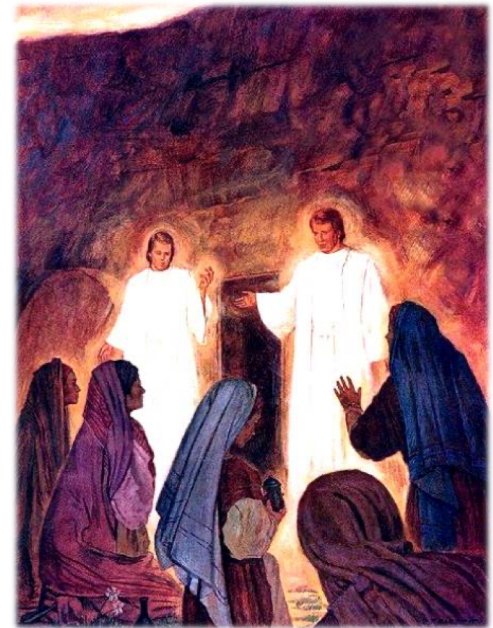
- Read this passage with the eyes of the women, grieving the death of their Lord.
- The women (Luke 24:10) *"It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others ..."*
- After the women determined the location of Jesus body, they returned home and prepared the perfumes and spices necessary for a proper burial.
- Once the Sabbath was over, the women headed for the tomb.
  - ***"first day of the week, very early in the morning"***
  - ***"bringing the spices which they had prepared"***
- Joseph had used a wheel shaped stone to close the grave.
  - *"and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?'"* Mark 16:3
- ***"And they found the stone rolled away, and they entered in"***
- The tomb was empty ***"and found not the body of the Lord Jesus"***
  - **What questions were going through the women's minds?**
  - **What is the significance of the empty tomb?**

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it." Mathew 28:1-2



### Reported (Luke 24:4-9)

- The women were 'perplexed'. Had someone stolen Jesus body?
    - The empty tomb was not enough to convince the women that Jesus had been raised from the dead.
    - The significance of the empty tomb had to be interpreted.
  - **"two men stood by them in shining garments"**
    - The physical appearance of the men in the dark was striking.
    - "shining" is used to describe a flash of lightning
      - *"His countenance was like lightening, and his raiment was white as snow"* Matt. 28:3
  - The sudden appearance startled the women and produced fear.
    - Often our physical response to fear is "fight or flight"
    - But there is another response to fear of the Lord (respect).
      - **"They bowed down their faces"**
  - The men/angels asked a rhetorical question. **"Why seek ye the living among the dead?"**
    - Then the angels interpreted their question. **"He is not here, but is risen."**
    - The women had come to anoint a body. There was a misunderstanding.
  - The way to correct a misunderstanding is to remember.
    - **"Remember how He spake unto you when He was in Galilee"**
      - *"the son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again"*
    - **"And they remembered His words"**
  - The empty tomb did not convince the women that Jesus was alive, but remembering His promise that He would be raised from the dead did.
  - The women then returned and **"told all these things unto the eleven"**
- **How does remembering Jesus' words remove confusion and bring clarity?**

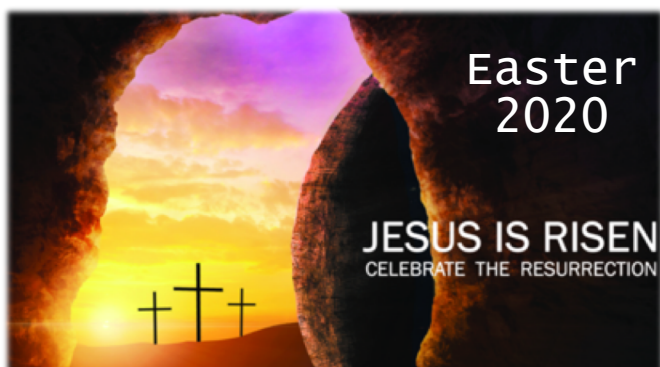


### Confirmed (Luke 24:10-12)

- Women were not generally viewed as reliable witnesses in a court of law.
  - Yet, God chose them to be the first witnesses of the resurrection. Why?
    - A personal note – I have served with men and women deacons for many years. Without exception, I have found women to be more loving and compassionate than male deacons.
  - It was their love and compassion that led them first to the tomb with the burial spices.
- The women reported what they had seen and experienced to the eleven apostles.
  - The apostles were not convinced, so Peter (and John) arose and ran to the tomb.
- Peter stooped down, entered the tomb and saw the linen clothes. At that moment, He too was perplexed **"wondering in himself at that which was come to pass."**
  - **Jesus is alive.** *"It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."* Luke 24:34

- **What convinced the women Jesus was alive?**  
➤ **What convinced you that Jesus was alive?**

**Biblical Truth:**      **Salvation comes through  
Jesus' death and resurrection.**



In 325 AD, the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first Full Moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox.