

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### “CHRIST HAS RISEN”

For individual study or discussion

In Luke 24:1-12, we realize it is hard to see Jesus for who he really is when we don't take him at his word. Luke invites his readers not only to examine the evidence that **Christ has risen** but to remember his Word, and by doing so, allow Jesus to reframe our understanding of his message and mission as we remember his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

#### The Disconcerting Revelation (vv. 1-3)

At early dawn, the women come to the tomb to anoint the body of Christ with the spices they have prepared (cf. Luke 23:56). Although the women intend to provide loving, compassionate care for the body of Jesus, the discovery of the empty tomb creates confusion for them when it should provide clarity. Despite being told beforehand by Jesus, the women are perplexed because they assume their Messiah is dead.

- Read Luke 8:1-3 and 23:49, 55. Luke names these women when they begin their role as disciples. Now they are named again at the culmination of that role. What do we learn from these passages about the women who follow Jesus?
- The women face four shocking things that morning. What are they? (vv. 1-6)

#### The Divine Reminder (vv. 4-7)

When the women receive the news from the two messengers that contradict what they thought to be true, they subsequently remember Jesus' words (vv. 5-8). As Philip Ryken insightfully notes, *“The absence of his body is not how the angels tried to convince the women at the empty tomb [that Christ had risen]. They did not try to reason on the basis of physical evidence...Instead, the angels simply told these women—and us—we are to believe in the resurrection on the basis of what Jesus said.”*<sup>1</sup>

- Recall from our studies in Deuteronomy when Moses instructs God's people that renewal always involves remembering (cf. Deuteronomy 4:9-14). During corporate worship we are called to remember. Why are remembering and renewal important parts of Christian worship? And why is it important that we remember the resurrection and live our lives in light of its truth? (cf. Romans 6:4-11)
- While Jesus' closest followers had forgotten his words, his enemies had not. Read Matthew 27:62-66. Who recalls Jesus' words? What is their response?
- Discuss ways people today are guilty of forgetting the words of Jesus. How can you and the members of your small group hold one another accountable for remembering and obeying Jesus' words?

#### The Diverse Reactions (vv. 8-12)

Despite acting as faithful messengers of the Gospel and witnesses to the empty tomb, the women are not believed. The apostles themselves heard Jesus foretell his death and resurrection, but they still disregard the women's testimonies (v. 11). Peter, incredulous, decides to hurry to the tomb in order to see for himself. He leaves in wonder.

- According to NT scholar Richard Bauckham because women were the first to see and proclaim the empty tomb, their witness lends credibility to the resurrection account. Women in the ancient world were considered unreliable attestants. No one making up a story would use a woman's testimony.<sup>2</sup> But according to professor Ben Witherington III, the account reflects more than patriarchal assumptions: *“In these stories women are given priority by God as recipients of revelation and thereby the role of mediators of that revelation to men. Is this not part of the eschatological reversal of status, in which God makes the last first and the first last, so that no one might boast before God?”*<sup>3</sup> How does this account highlight your understanding of what we have learned thus far of the upside-down Kingdom of God in the Gospel of Luke?
- According to Tim Keller, today's passage reminds us that the resurrection helps us understand Jesus' words: *“It's the key to understanding all the Scriptures.”* And once you understand the resurrection and the cross together, the whole of Scripture opens up.<sup>4</sup> Read Acts 2:14-41. What effect did the truth of the resurrection have on the crowds at Pentecost in Jerusalem? How did Peter use it to open up the Scriptures?

DATE: April 20, 2025

SPEAKER: Brian/Wil

SERIES: Holy Week

PASSAGE: Luke 24:1-12

## Family Dinner Table

### What Will You Do With Easter?

Paul David Tripp

Read John 11:23-26. Martha makes a beautiful confession of faith in verse 24, by saying she believes that Lazarus will be resurrected on the last day. It's absolutely true. It's good theology. So when Jesus asks her if she believes, he isn't questioning the soundness of her theology. Instead, Jesus is asking this question: Do you believe that you have met the giver of life? Do you believe that Jesus dwells within you and his resurrection power bubbles inside of you? God wants to do more in us than just have us make a theological confession of the resurrection. He wants more for us than to only recognize the historical fact of this event. He wants us to do more than just celebrate on Sunday. Oh, these are all essential things, but they're means to this end – that we would live in resurrection faith. There are few verses in Scripture that can summarize resurrection faith better than Galatians 2:20. You no longer live, but Christ lives in you! It's not just you against that particular area of enticing sin. It's not just you when you've been betrayed by someone and thoughts of vengeance enter your head. It's not just you when you're struggling in your marriage and it seems impossible for you to love your spouse. It's not just you when you're facing another situation with a rebellious child and you feel like you have nothing left. It's not just you when you lay in your bed at night, wondering how you will face the next day. It's never just you anymore, because the resurrected King Christ lives inside of you, and His resurrection power is available to you.

- Do you live in resurrection faith? Do you believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and that those who believe in him will live, both now and forever? Don't wait for Easter next year to celebrate the resurrection. You can start living out of the resurrection power today – right here, right now – in the place where God has called you to live.

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Church of the First Born, supported partner ministry

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

City Church Manchester, supported national partners

<sup>1</sup> Ryken, Philip. *Luke, Volume 2*. 2009, Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing. 635-36

<sup>2</sup> Bauckham, Richard. *Gospel Women*, 2002, Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 257-77.

<sup>3</sup> Witherington III, Ben. *Women in the Earliest Churches*. 1988, Cambridge University Press. 165

<sup>4</sup> Keller, Tim. *Jesus Vindicated*. April 16, 2025. Preaching Today.com. [www.preachingtoday.com/preaching-guides/preaching-on-easter/jesus-vindicated.html](http://www.preachingtoday.com/preaching-guides/preaching-on-easter/jesus-vindicated.html)