



The Gospel According to Luke
Wk. 115 "Victory of the King"
By Pastor Jody May

Luke 24:1-12 ESV

The Resurrection

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they 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**. **4** While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. **5** And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? **6** He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." **8** And they remembered his words, **9** and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. **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. **12** But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

Review:

Easter, many people, though they may celebrate the Holiday, may never know what has led up to this historic day. They have heard of the Empty Tomb, they have heard of a miraculous resurrection from the dead, they may have even heard that it has something to do with God forgiving sins. BUT to get the full meaning of Easter you have to combine that with the whole life of Jesus, all His works, everything that He said He was, along with the events of the last week of His life, which we traditionally call ***Passion Week***.

On Monday we had a triumphant entry, Jesus rode into Jerusalem as an ancient King of Israel would have done ([Luke 19:28-40](#)). That's on the heel of 3.5 years of going through the Holy land essentially whipping out sickness and demonic oppression, and even raising the dead giving everyone very clear signs He was sent from God.



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He then entered the temple and cleaned out all the corrupt money collectors during the high holiday time while at the same time pronouncing judgement on Jerusalem itself for its' adulterous ways ([Luke 19:41-48](#)).

He taught at the temple from Monday to Wednesday about the Kingdom of God, the coming destruction of Jerusalem, confronting the Jewish leaders, evading capture by those same leaders, all the while building up the anticipation as to 'if' He was the prophesied return of the King of the Jews that would lead them into the golden age of world domination and freedom from tyrannical powers ([Luke 20-21](#)).

He then spends Passover (Thursday) with His disciples whereby He gives Him His last wishes; teaching them how the greatest shall serve the least, how the Lord's Supper/Communion initiating the new covenant prophesied in the OT ([Jer. 31:31-34](#), [Ezekiel 36:24-28](#)) will replace the OT covenant of the law, making this the last official Passover ([Luke 22:7-38](#)).

Then afterwards **He prays** for His disciples and all future disciples establishing the future of His Kingdom the church([John 17](#)), and then goes out to a garden to **pray** and suffers through His last temptation of whether the Father's cup of wrath must be drunk in full in order to complete the Salvation of the church. He gets that answered by His arrest that night for He is the King and only by His work as all of mankind's true Messiah and as God in the flesh can He effectually die for sinners so that we may be saved ([Luke 22:39-62](#)).

He then endures betrayal by his disciples and mock trials by the Jewish Religious Elite because they can't find anything unlawful and yet these same Jews want Him dead because He has disrupted their power structure, He is a threat to their peace, and way of life. They drag Him before Pilate, He stands for questioning in front of Herod as well and still nobody has anything against Him. He is released to the Jews **after torture** for crucifixion even though Pilate said he found no fault and in return for his troubles, to spite the Jews, He gives Jesus the title in paper **King of the Jews** to bear on His path of sorrows ([Luke 22:63-23:35](#))



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Jesus is working Salvation all the way up to the end even saving a lost sinner on the cross next to Him showing His strength of will and mental composure, through everything. He finally gives up His own soul for no one takes the Kings life, He must choose to give it up ([John 10:18](#)). He dies and there are signs of earthquake, darkness, the dead walking around, and again He is declared innocent 1st by nature, 2nd the Centurion and 3rd by acts of shame of guilt-ridden Jews. His innocence is important for without it there is no forgiveness off sins ([Luke 23:26-56](#))

And now the **land has rested** but it has **not been restful**. It is as if the land has been holding its' breath waiting to see what will happen. It is on the first day of the week, Sunday, the third day that everything changes. That day the Father provides the proof that Jesus was truly the King, the Messiah/Christ, He was the suffering servant ([Isaiah 53](#); [Psalm 22](#)), He was under the law, He bested the law, He paid the wages of sin with a perfect life, and as a King to offer His subjects He now extends freedom for those that believe they belong to Him, shown by their faith in Him ([Ephesians 2:1-10](#)).

Easter, you see, is the **Culmination of a Coronation**, for Luke now calls Him - (v.3) **"but when they went in (Empty Tomb) they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus", kyrios (koo'-ree-os) - he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master**. Jesus is now **LORD**, it is now not only that the King represents the people, but the people represent the King, He owns us, He has earned that title where Adam gave it up, and we do well to remember that and treat Him with the respect He's earned.

The Father has provided today three things in the resurrection to let you know His Son lives and earned that title **King of Kings and Lord of Lords** ([Rev. 19:16](#)). He died an unjustified death, but He was raised as an eternal King to offer eternal intercession for His people, so we too could come to know eternal life like Him one day. For you see - **The Victory of the King has become the Victory of the People!**



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1. Empty Tomb

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

The Empty Tomb is not just talked about here in Luke, but it is talked about in all the Gospel accounts by the different authors (Mat. 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, & John 20). By the way, Luke omits one thing; and they all do. The actual resurrection. So, if you're looking for it, it's not there. There are no verses in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John that explain the resurrection. There's no description of it. No one was there. No one saw it. That it happened is obvious. How it happened is inexplicable and known only to God.

In Christianity we talk a lot about the Cross, but even more importantly is the need to talk and preach about the resurrection, for it is God's vindication and our hope. In Acts, Luke records that the apostles went out and taught people that Jesus was resurrected and that means we should live in light of Him as a living being, not a memento, or legend, or myth! Right now, this God man is interacting with us, and we belong to Him, and the fulfillment of this resurrected being is foretold in John's Revelation, all are to be judged. It's all real and the resurrection points to the reality of historical truth and the actuality of what will happen. Listen we don't know what will happen next in our world, will we become socialists or Libertarian, will there be another pandemic or financial shutdown, will our world look like Road Warrior, Maze Runner, Hunger Games, or the Walking Dead in the days to come, I DON'T KNOW, but **what I am sure of Jesus will return because He LIVES**, and I want to be on His good side, don't you?

The Empty Tomb declares to us that our lord lives, how does it build this case of resurrection that you should believe? "On the first day of the week at early dawn, they went to the tomb." They, meaning the women, the women are identified in verse 10, "Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women." Mark 16:1 names one of them Salome; probably a half a dozen, maybe more women. The reason they came was you will remember they were there at the cross, remember? Standing there, watching Jesus while He was dying, in



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silence, stunned silence. If you go back into chapter 23, they are also there when Jesus is buried, verse 55. (paraphrased) “The women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed after Joseph of Arimathea, who was taking His body to bury it in his own tomb, in which nobody had ever been placed. And they were following, they saw the tomb and how his body was laid.” They saw the death of Christ. They saw Him die. They were there when the soldiers didn’t break His legs they pierced His side and blood and water came out. They were there when He was buried. And they saw Nicodemus show up with his 75lbs. weight of spices, of myrrh and aloes, to put on the body of Christ as a testimony to his own love for Christ.¹

[Mark 16](#) - Listen to what Mark says. “Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen and they were saying to one another on the way, **‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?’** “Remember now, they were there on Friday night when Jesus was laid in the tomb, and Joseph and Nicodemus rolled the stone over the entrance. They knew it was there and they asked the question: who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb? “And looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.” So, on the way they’re having the discussion. We’re going to go there, we’ve got all these spices we’ve prepared on Friday, we’re going to do our part to show our love to the Lord by putting spices, more spices on His body, but who is going to roll away the stone?

The women had no idea what happened on Saturday and were expecting the tomb to still be sealed up. On Saturday though the Jews who were afraid that the disciples would steal the body to fabricate a phony resurrection asked Pilate for a guard. Pilate gave them one.

Matthew 27:62-66 ESV

The Guard at the Tomb

⁶²The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor

¹ John MacArthur, “Witnessing Women and doubting Disciples”, *Grace to You*, Nov. 16, 2008, <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/42-292/witnessing-women-and-doubting-disciples>, Web 04032021.



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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." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

So, they would not have known about the guard and what happened the day before. Now, when they get there, SURPRISE there is no guard there! It doesn't say anything in any of the four gospels about the women ever meeting the Roman guard, never. Well, so what happened to them!? Let's go back to Matthew to get the rest of the story:

Matthew 28:1-4 ESV

The Resurrection

28 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

This would be a second earthquake. There was one on Friday, equally severe, that split the rocks, threw open tombs. The guards are so taken by surprise, an earthquake, a flash of lightening, and an angelic figure; they are encountering a supernatural event and they go comatose; like dead men. **BTW the stone was rolled away not to let Jesus out He was gone already but to let us see what inside! Jesus is glorified and reacquainted with His divine power now, He walked through walls to get in the upper room He walked out of that grave with no problems.** When the ladies arrive, they are no longer there, so what happened to them?

Matthew 28:11-15 ESV

The Report of the Guard



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¹¹ While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. ¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³ and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Again, Luke writes this account from witnesses who saw the guard, who knew about the bribe, it may have even come from one of the guards. Over the years people have tried to explain away the empty tomb: the forgot where they put Him, the ladies went to the wrong tomb, the were mass hallucinations by the disciples, they stole His body, all of them seem pretty incredible, **but the point of the empty tomb that historians cannot argue is that it exists.** Here's what makes that hard to accept for some people. If it is true, if it is empty because He came back from the dead, then that means you are **called to be different because of that.** The Empty tomb tells us one thing for sure, we no longer have to fear death:

John 11:25-26 ESV

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me **shall never die.** Do you believe this?"

Today for you, for the rest of 2021, the empty tomb tells us don't put your trust in man, but wholly put your trust in God. For we have a God, His name is Lord Jesus, and **He has the power over death.** Dr. Fauci says to keep hiding, our government says to keep your masks on, our governors want to keep business doors closed, we are warned by the CDC to hurry and get your shots, all of that to get us looking at the dangers that lurk behind every corner so we can ignore what's happening with our tax dollars in the hands of our elected officials. The empty tomb says the worst is behind us, and it declares to us **that too will NOT be our final resting place** for the **Victory of our King over the Grave has been extended to His people, would you consider living like that with me this year!?**

2. Angelic Witnesses



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⁴ While **they were perplexed** about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the **Son of Man** must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

The Father provides the second witness today by **divine revelation through two angels**. Remember these ladies had no idea about the resurrection, they had no cause to believe anything other than finding the stone in front of the tomb. They are perplexed to find it empty, and His body gone. There's no reason to assume that any of these women had ever seen angels, apart from Mary the mother of Jesus. Two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing. John describes them as two angels. Angels appear often in human form. Mark describes one of them as a young man, so they are angels, spiritual beings who can take on human form and take on the form of a young man. (That would be a consistent thing for an angel to do because angels don't age, they are spiritual not physical, they are eternal.)

It is also interesting to note that there are two of them, Luke is pointing out, perhaps because of [Deuteronomy 19:15](#), two witnesses are required to validate anything. While the Jews could not provide two witnesses to condemn Jesus, the **Father Himself provides two witnesses from Heaven who have recorded all the words of Christ**, and then played them back as in a courtroom recording of what the Lord said and the title, He used for Himself, '**Son of Man**'.

He told you way back in Galilee, even though this event is shocking it is not new information, we are reminding you of this. This is why there's a mild rebuke. "Why do you seek the living One among the dead?" A mild rebuke of, "C'mon guys, He's been saying this for a long time." If you go back to Luke 9 when He's still in Galilee and verse 22, He warns them and says, "***Son of Man must suffer many things. Be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.***" He told them that. He reiterated again in [Luke 9:43-44](#), "***They were all amazed at the greatness of God, while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing, He said to His***



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disciples, 'Let these words sink in to your ears, the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.'" But they didn't understand this statement. He repeats it and repeats it and repeats it and makes the same promise several times recorded in the book of Matthew, several times recorded in the book of Mark. Another time in the 18th chapter of Luke. This is what's going to happen. And it started all the way back in Galilee; don't you remember that He's going to be delivered? He's going to be crucified? And He's going to be raised? Delivered, crucified, and raised.

Again, the main evidence concerning the resurrection, testified to by angelic witnesses, is the empty tomb, and there is no other explanation for the empty tomb other than a resurrection. **The Jews didn't steal His body**, why would they hire guards and then bribe them to be quiet? **They wanted nothing more than that tomb to be occupied** so they could remind the Jews of what a liar and a fake He was, but they were robbed of that. **The Romans didn't steal His body** for that would make someone they martyred a hero, **encouraging the rebellious Jews**. The Apostles didn't steal His body because they couldn't get to Him, they didn't believe in the resurrection, and they were on the run. The women didn't steal His body because they have already said in the gospel accounts, they needed someone to roll back this huge stone. There's no fabrication by any of His friends for **no one believed He would be risen** that's why they all had to be reminded, so there would be nothing to gain by His friends by taking the body. **The angels give the only possible explanation: He's not here, He said He would be crucified and then He would rise**. This fact of the resurrection points out for us again, the way I think we should respond to this, that **if you believe it to be true, we should be changed**. Paul wrote about how it made Him behave once He learned that Jesus was His Lord:

Philippians 3:8-11

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and **may share his sufferings,**



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becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

The reminder of the angels, points to the path that all His people must walk, forsake your life, forsake your goals, count all you ever know as rubbish, pick up your own cross, that which makes your life hard to do, whatever pain it may be and by whatever way it may come, so that you too may receive what you see here today, resurrection.

Family, as we move into 2021 full speed, what cross have you been laying down for too long? Where have you not been listening to what Jesus has been saying, what He has been teaching? Are you thinking you can make it through this world without bowing to the Lordship of Christ? **The Victory of the King over the grave gives you the opportunity to live a life that is hard any way you cut it, but in following Jesus, when you die, you are rewarded with eternal life.** Would you be free from your burden of sin today, and exchange it for the burden of a cross? For that burden actually produces something, an eternal life.

3. Human (women) Witnesses

⁸And they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now 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, ¹¹but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

So, we have two groups of witnesses the ladies who believed and the disciples who were still filled with disbelief. Don't be too hard on them, the women didn't believe too, until they talked to angels. You see already the evidence provided by the Father, provided in the empty tomb and angels, starts commanding action of those that say they follow Jesus. The reaction that Peter has is what we all should have, marveling – **no longer fearing or dejected or scared there is AMAZEMENT!** I want to add one thing to Luke's story for He left it out, but the other Gospels put



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it in. I wanted to share it with us all today for here at HCC as we have been witnessing for 4 weeks now the suffering watching our Lord; we have seen betrayal, false accusations, torture, condemnation, a crucifixion and a burial, for four weeks we have seen the worst of humanity throw itself at the Lord, so I just want to give us a peek at His resurrected self for Luke didn't put that here in His story yet.

Matthew 28:5-10 ESV

⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

'Good morning Ladies!' I don't know why He saw to them first but remember how the ladies sat with Jesus while He was on the cross, and saw Him die, saw Him put in the tomb, perhaps He wanted them to be the first to see Him again. **This is why when Peter got back and started hearing all of the story, he was amazed!**

Family, how does the resurrection affect you today? Are you in awe? Do you realize that it has changed everything for you? What does it call you to do? The one thing I think it immediately demands of us, is the fact that **we all are called to witness to the resurrection** if we call ourselves Christians! Everyone that believes: every poor person, every meek person, every humble person, the person that thirsts after righteousness, every person that is suffering, every person that feels dejected, every person that feels like they are an outcast, every person that has felt fear, guilt, the weight of sin, the weight of being bullied, the weight of not being accepted, everyone now has a voice to declare the strength of the one that no one accepted but everyone needs! The King was Victorious for His people, and now His people can live with the truth of an empty tomb, the Lord



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Jesus has won! Whatever this life has got for us, can't take away our eternal resting place, which will not be in any cold ground but will be in the presence of our Lord forever. May you too marvel at what Jesus your King has won for you today. The resurrection is all the proof I need I pray that is all the proof you require as well...

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that provided for us the witness of the empty tomb, so that we would believe in the work of the Son of Man.

Go in the name of the Son, that conquered the Grave and is victorious so that we may share in His victory.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that grants us faith, so we can marvel at His resurrection and who propels us to share the good news with others.