

Raised!
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Luke 24:1-12

He is RISEN! He is RISEN INDEED! Happy Easter! Let's begin by reading Luke's account of Easter morning at the empty tomb:

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.

- Matthew's account tells us the women "departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples."ⁱ These women were the first to report the good news of the resurrection.
- Back to Luke 24, verse eleven tells us: ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.ⁱⁱ
- The disciples were the first of many skeptics about the resurrection. When they later saw Jesus alive all that changed and THEY changed greatly.
- This morning I'm not going to focus on the many historical and logical proofs that Jesus rose from the dead. There are many great summaries of those proofs. Instead, the Holy Spirit seemed to draw me to the words of verses six through eight:

He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you...the Son of Man must be betrayed...be crucified, and...he would rise again on the third day." Then they remembered that he had said this.

- Remembering what Jesus said is fundamental to our faith.
- Psalm 119:16 (ESV) says, ¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

- God's word was written down so we can each remember what we need to know to live the abundant life of a Christ-follower.
- The human act of remembering can trigger strong, visceral reactions both positive and negative. Pleasant memories bring joy. Hurtful memories can cause sadness and dredge up harmful emotions.
- Remembering the right things can calm our fears, warm our hearts, and motivate us to act in courageous and noble ways.
- At key moments of history remembering events has become a battle cry.
- "Remember the Alamo!" "Remember Pearl Harbor!" "9/11 -- We will never forget!" Americans embraced those events taking passionate, patriotic action even to the point of some of them dying for our freedom.
- In the middle of this current crisis it seems we will never forget Covid-19. Just as the Great Depression and World War II marked our parents and grandparents, life will be different and we will never forget.
- As time passes even big things fade to the back of our minds. People never forgot those events but eventually they didn't remember them daily.
- Sadly, the patriotism after 9/11 soon settled back down into selfishness.
- How often do we feel that patriotic lump in our throats after July 4th?
- More to the point, do we have a tendency to put our strong feelings about Jesus' resurrection away with the Easter decorations until next year?
- I'm not saying we don't believe in or appreciate the resurrection in the big picture of our faith, but do we reflect daily on what means for us?

Big Idea: As a follower of Christ it's natural to love Him for what He did on the cross; but, do I really embrace His resurrection every day, not just on Easter?

- My battle cry for us today is REMEMBER the RESURRECTION!
- What did Jesus' resurrection accomplish for us? Do we really understand, embrace, and treasure the power of the resurrection every day?
- **Think about sermons and songs in the church. Which do you hear referenced more, the cross or the empty tomb? Why is that?**
- Taking nothing away from the sacrifice and atonement at Calvary, without the resurrection we don't have the gospel. John 3:16 would end at "...*should not perish.*" We'd be spared destruction but without Heaven.
- Christ's resurrection gives us newness of life now and eternal life forever.
- So, let's look at some of the many verses in scripture that help us to appreciate and embrace what Jesus' resurrection does for His followers.
- We'll see the PLAN, the PROMISE, and the POWER of Jesus' resurrection, and how it confirms His PREEMINENCE over everything and His PLACE in the Trinity as the Son of God.
- **REMEMBER the PLAN** – Christ's death AND resurrection was always God's plan to conquer sin and death and reconcile mankind to Himself.
- In Acts 26 Paul said to King Agrippa: *"I stand here testifying...what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: ²³ that the Christ must*

*suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.*ⁱⁱⁱ

- Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:14 (NLT) ¹⁴ *And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless.*
- Romans 4:25 (NLT) ²⁵ *He was handed over to die because of our sins, [atonement] and he was raised to life to make us right with God. [justification]*
- Romans 10:9 (ESV) ⁹ *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- Jesus repeatedly told His disciples this was God's PLAN.^{iv}
- REMEMBER His resurrection completes the PLAN of salvation.
- We need to **REMEMBER Jesus' PREEMINENCE and PLACE.**
- Jesus' resurrection confirms His **preeminence** as the Son of God, His **place** as our advocate at the right hand of the Father now, and in the future, His return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Colossians 1:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ *And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. [supreme, incomparable, surpassing, towering, transcendent, ultimate, unequalable, unmatchable, unsurpassable'] He's EVERYTHING!*
- Is Jesus your "everything" above all things? The resurrection confirms it!
- Ephesians 1:19–21 (ESV) ¹⁹ *...the immeasurable greatness of his [God's] power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.*
- Since His resurrection Jesus is seated next to the Father on our behalf!
- His resurrection confirms Jesus' preeminence and place as our Lord.
- **REMEMBER the PROMISE** – Physical death is not the end of our story.
- Romans 8:11 (ESV) ¹¹ *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*
- Romans 6:5 (ESV) ⁵ *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*
- 1 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV) ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,*
- The first thing we think about when we remember the resurrection is eternal life with Christ for His followers after our earthly death.

- It gives us hope for ourselves and for our loved ones who are in Christ.
- We rejoice in the future resurrection of followers of Christ, but remembering resurrection is a sober reminder for those NOT in Christ.
- John 5:28–29 (NIV) (Words of Jesus) ²⁸ “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.
- Every soul will spend eternity somewhere. Remembering resurrection should motivate us to spread the good news of the gospel.
- The resurrection isn’t just about our future; it’s about life RIGHT NOW!
- We need to **REMEMBER the POWER** – Paul wrote in Romans 1:4: *[He was] declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lordⁱ*
- Followers of Christ have access to resurrection power in our lives.
- Just consider the amazing post-resurrection change in Jesus’ disciples.
- John Stott writes: *“The death of their Master left them despondent, disillusioned, and near to despair. But in the Acts they emerge as those who risk their lives for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and who turn the world upside down. What has brought about such a change? How can we account for their new faith and power, joy and love? There’s no doubt that the events of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit had a lot to do with it. But the Holy Spirit came only when Jesus had risen and returned to heaven. It is as if the resurrection was the key which unlocked extraordinary moral and spiritual power.”^{vii}*
- The apostles accomplished amazing things because they had resurrection power!
- Philippians 3:10 (ESV) Paul prayed: ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, [Buried with Christ in baptism, raised to walk in newness of life.]
- The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to His followers. What does that look like? Whenever you read a promise in scripture you can say, *“I KNOW that’s true because of RESURRECTION POWER in my life! If God displayed His power by raising Jesus from the dead, He can solve any problem I have and keep me safe with Him.”*
- That resurrection power comes to believers when God places His Holy Spirit within us supernaturally at the time of salvation.
- Resurrection power also frees us from bondage to sin. In Romans 6 we saw that our “old self” died with Christ and we are raised to new life no longer in slavery to sin (Romans 6:6.)
- Remembering the resurrection means remembering resurrection power.
- This week when Satan is whispering in your ear about how bad things are or might be, just say *“Get thee behind me Satan, I have RESURRECTION power because Jesus is alive and well!”*

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- This Easter our battle cry is REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION!
- For the follower of Christ EVERY DAY should be Easter Sunday!
- When we think of Jesus' resurrection we automatically think of "life everlasting" and why wouldn't that be our first thought?
- In this study though, we've seen that the resurrection of our Lord is a multifaceted "gem" that has impact on every soul since before creation and until after He returns to earth to rule and reign as Lord.
- We need to make it a daily priority to:
 - **REMEMBER THE PLAN** for our salvation involved BOTH His death and resurrection; both the cross and the empty tomb.
 - **REMEMBER Jesus' PREEMINENCE and PLACE.** Jesus' resurrection confirms His **preeminence** as the Son of God, His **place** as our advocate at the right hand of the Father now, and in the future His return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
 - **REMEMBER the PROMISE** – Physical death is not the end of our story. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.^{viii}
 - **REMEMBER the POWER** – Followers of Christ have access to resurrection power in our lives.

He is RISEN! He is RISEN INDEED! Let's remember, embrace, and treasure that every day. As followers of Christ may every day in our lives be Easter Sunday.

ⁱ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 28:8). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

ⁱⁱ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 24:11). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

ⁱⁱⁱ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ac 26:22–23). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

^{iv} Matt. 16:21; 17:22–23; 20:17–19; Luke 9:22, 44; 18:31–34

^v Merriam-Webster, I. (1996). [Merriam-Webster's collegiate thesaurus](#). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.

^{vi} [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 1:4). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

^{vii} Stott, John. Basic Christianity (IVP Classics) . InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

^{viii} Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ro 6:5). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.