

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Luke 24:1-12

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Christianity has never been more relevant than it is today. The death and resurrection of Jesus took place because of this problem that politicians, philosophers, economists, educators, and revolutionaries all keep running into but cannot solve on their own.

Easter is the glorious message and the eternal hope that things can be made new...because we can be made new through Jesus Christ!

[Read Luke 24:1-12]

The angel asked these women at the tomb: “Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

I. They Didn’t Expect the Miracle of the Resurrection

Even though they loved Him and had followed Him, they thought He was just like other leaders who said great things and did great things, but died.

It’s always been difficult for people to believe. In their Greco-Roman world and culture, people thought it was just as ridiculous as they do today.

Luke 24:11 “...these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.”

The apostles—and so many others—went from rejecting this message to proclaiming it and spreading it because they saw Jesus for themselves after His resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:4-8 “...that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. ⁶Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive... ⁷Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me.”

II. They Didn’t Understand the Purpose of His Death

The angel tells them they didn’t expect His resurrection because they didn’t understand His death.

Luke 24:7 “...the Son of Man *must* be delivered in the hands of sinful men and be crucified...”

Jesus had to die! He left the glories of heaven, took on flesh, and came into this world not to be an example that would inspire us, but to be a Savior who would die for us.

John 12:27-28 “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name...”

We’re too sinful, broken, guilty, and lost to ever consistently follow His example. The biggest problem is not overcoming the evil that’s all around us; it’s overcoming and controlling the evil that rises up within us.

The essence of the angel’s message to these women is the Gospel message:

- All of us are sinners by nature and by choice.
- God gave us the Ten Commandments so that we would see how sinful we are and know that we need a Savior.
- God sent His Son into this world to do for us what we could never do for ourselves.
- He lived the only perfect life – keeping God’s law perfectly.
- When He died on the cross, it was in payment for our sins and not His own because He had no sin of His own. He became a substitute for us and took the punishment that should have been ours.
- When He rose from the dead, He proved to all the world that He is the Son of God who can take away the sins of the world.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

We all have faith. It’s just a question of where you’re putting your faith. Absence of faith is never the problem. The presence of something else you’re already trusting in is the problem!

Let go of whatever it is that you’ve been trusting in and trust in someone better—Jesus Christ—who died and rose again for you!

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 “‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’⁵⁵ ‘O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting?’⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”