



Sermon Discussion Questions

March 31, 2024

Jesus in Jerusalem

RISEN!

Luke 24:1-12

1. **Opening Discussion Questions** (in a group setting you will probably only want to do one of these questions)
 - a. Have you ever encountered something hard to believe or too good to be true? What was your immediate reaction and how did it change over time? Do you subscribe to the view that “if it’s too good to be true it probably isn’t”?
 - b. How has Easter changed since you were a child? What, if anything, did you do then that you don’t see happening anymore? What new things have been added? Does Easter seem to have the same emphasis/importance as when you were younger?
2. **Sermon Outline/Key Points**
 - a. Jesus Died and Rose from the Dead (vv1-8)
 - i. A group of faithful women watched Jesus die and be buried.
 - ii. When they followed up, Jesus wasn't in the tomb.
 - iii. Jesus is alive!
 - b. Not Everyone Will Believe, But Jesus Is Truly Alive (vv9-12)
 - i. The women told the disciples who largely didn't believe them
 - ii. Don't be shocked when people don't believe in the resurrection of Jesus
 - c. If You Believe, Follow Jesus!
 - i. The most critical question in life - do you believe this?
 - ii. If you believe, obey Jesus (John 3:36)
3. **Study/Discussion Points:**
 - a. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
 - i. *What does Christ’s resurrection mean to you personally? Is it more than just a special day on the church’s calendar?*
 - ii. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - iii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
 - iv. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - v. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?

- vi. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

b. **Monday** – *Jesus Died and Rose from the Dead.*

- i. This week, instead of starting with the sermon’s focal passage, we will consider other New Testament passages to help us understand the importance of the resurrection.
- ii. Based on these passages, what did the resurrection prove and accomplish?
 - 1. Acts 2:22-36
 - 2. Matthew 12:38-40
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 and Revelation 1:17-18
 - 4. Romans 4:25, 10:9-10, Hebrews 7:23-25, and 1 Peter 1:3
 - 5. Acts 17:31
- iii. According to these verses, what benefits do we receive from His resurrection?
 - 1. Romans 6:4 and 6:8-11
 - 2. Romans 8:11
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 4:14
 - 4. Colossians 3:1-4
 - 5. 1 John 3:2
- iv. Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-19 carefully and list those things about our Christian faith that would no longer be true without resurrection.

c. **Tuesday** – *Jesus Died and Rose from the Dead*

- i. Each of the four Gospels presents the account of the resurrection from a different viewpoint. Start by reading the focal passage, Luke 24:1-12, several times noting details, including who is involved, what is said, what the reactions/emotions were, and any other vital points you notice.
- ii. What stands out most to you in Luke’s account of the resurrection?
 - 1. Why do you think the women needed to be reminded of what Jesus had told them (see Matthew 16:21, 17:22, and Luke 9:22)?
 - 2. The two men asked the women a surprising question: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” If you had been there, how do you think you would have responded? Is there any symbolic way people do that today?
 - 3. How did the apostles react to the women when they reported what had happened? Why do you think Peter’s reaction was so much different?
 - 4. Considering the people’s reaction in this account, what parallels do you see between your initial response to the Gospel message and the response of those with whom you’ve shared the plan of salvation?

d. Wednesday – Jesus Died and Rose from the Dead

- i. Compare the resurrection account in Luke 24:1-12 with that presented by Matthew in 28:1-8.
 1. What significant differences do you see between the two accounts? Who is added? Who is left out? What new information is provided?
 2. What stands out most to you in Matthew’s account?
- ii. Neither the women nor the guards expected the resurrection or the appearance of angels. What might be a reason for their vastly different responses? How might this relate to how people respond to the Good News today?
- iii. How would you explain the two very different emotions the two women experienced? How do you think each influenced their actions?
- iv. This account emphasizes two acts of obedience – one clearly stated (verse 8) and the other implied (verse 10). How does the obedience shown here relate to Luke’s title when referring to Jesus in Luke 24:3? How should it apply in our lives?

e. Thursday – Jesus Died and Rose from the Dead

- i. Today, compare the resurrection account in Mark 16:1-8 with the sermon focal passage. (Note: some translations may have additional verses following verse 8, but the ESV, NIV, and CSB end by saying, “they were afraid.”)
 1. What significant differences do you see between the two accounts? Who is added? Who is left out? What new information is provided?
 2. What stands out most to you in Mark’s account?
- ii. What additional information is provided in verse 1? When would the three women have had to do this shopping? What does it very clearly show about their belief at that point?
- iii. What would you conclude from the command “tell His disciples and Peter”?
- iv. What emotions are the women said to be experiencing in this account?
- v. How do the women’s actions (or lack thereof) in verse 8 mirror that of many Christians when they can share Christ with the unsaved?

f. Friday – Jesus Died and Rose from the Dead

- i. Finally compare the account in John 20:1-18 with the focal passage in Luke 24:1-12
 1. What significant differences do you see between the two accounts? Who is added? Who is left out? What new information is provided?
 2. What stands out most to you in John’s account?

- ii. Why do you think Peter and the disciple Jesus loved had different responses when they reached the tomb? What do you think eventually convinced both of them to believe?
- iii. How does verse 9 show that the two apostles were in much the same situation we are when we first accept Christ as our Savior (see 2 Corinthians 3:18)?
- iv. How do you think we as Christians, often copy the actions of the two disciples' recorded in verse 10?

g. *Saturday – If You Believe, Follow Jesus!*

- i. The responses of those we read about in these resurrection accounts fall into two categories: belief or disbelief, and obedience or disobedience. Every human confronted with the Gospel message has the same choices. What do these verses tell us are the results of belief?
 - 1. Romans 10:9, Acts 16:31, and Romans 4:24
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:16-17, and John 3:3
 - 3. John 3:16, 6:40 and 11:25
- ii. Both Luke and John use the title Lord to refer to Jesus. If He is our Lord, then we must obey. How do these verses demonstrate the need/importance of obedience:
 - 1. Luke 9:23
 - 2. John 14:23-24
 - 3. 1 John 2:5
 - 4. Hebrews 5:8-9

4. **Application:** Of the many applications and lessons we could draw from these passages, two to consider are:

- a. Luke deliberately shifts to using the title “Lord” as must we, but allowing Christ to be Lord is neither easy nor popular. Spend time in meditation and prayer this week, recommitting to Christ’s Lordship.
- b. As we present the gospel, we must be very understanding and loving when nonbelievers refuse to believe in the resurrection. After all, the disciples, looking at physical evidence, still had a hard time accepting this new reality.

5. **Prayer Points:**

- a. **A**doration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. **C**onfession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. **T**hanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. **S**upplications –Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19