



Journey to Jerusalem

LENT 2022

Growth Group Curriculum Week 7 – April 17, 2022 – Luke 24:1-12

Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. Thank you for loving and caring for each other.

On numerous occasions Jesus had spoken of his resurrection as he and his disciples made their way through Samaria to Jerusalem, in order to celebrate Passover. Even though his disciples had heard him, they did not fully comprehend what he was saying. Sometimes in our faith we need to see the fulfillment of a promise before we can truly understand the promise. Once people saw the risen Christ they were able to remember and understand the promises he had been making.

The women return to the tomb to properly bury Jesus. Everything had happened so quickly and they could do nothing on the day of the Sabbath (Saturday), and so on early Sunday morning they made their way to the tomb. It is interesting that all of the gospels have women being the first to arrive. As they arrive they discover the stone has been rolled away and the tomb is empty.

If Luke had been making this story up, a generation or more after the event, as people sometimes suggest, not only would he not have had women going first to the tomb (women were not regarded as credible witnesses in the ancient world, as this story itself bears out); he would have had the apostles believe the story at once, ready to be models of faith and to lead the young church into God's future. (NT Wright)

It is also interesting that the details of the resurrection – how it happened, at what time it happened, how the angels were or were not involved – is not discussed. It is simply a fact that Jesus is no longer in the tomb and the stone had been rolled away. As the women were “wondering” about this and trying to sort it out, two men in gleaming clothes showed up and asked them why they were looking for the living amongst the dead. They were not going to find Jesus in a place where people are buried.

The angels want the women to “remember” what Jesus had told them. They repeat what Jesus had said about being handed over and being crucified and then being raised from the dead on the third day. The women are no longer wondering and are now remembering what Jesus had indeed told them. The resurrection of Jesus is the great surprise. He is risen! He is risen indeed!



Exploring the Text

Luke 24:1-12

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” ⁸ Then they remembered his words. ⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Questions

If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.

- 1) Share about what you did for Easter or a favorite Easter memory.
- 2) Describe a time in your life when you’ve been forced to wait (ie COVID). How did you feel?
- 3) Have you ever experienced a time when your eyes have been opened to a truth that you had previously rejected or discounted, but then suddenly understood?
- 4) The women knew the two men were angels and immediately fell to their faces. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like you had a divine encounter or experience with God?
- 5) What do you think the angels meant when they asked, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?”
- 6) What do you think motivated Peter to run to the tomb, even though all of the other men didn’t believe the women’s account?
- 7) Why is it important to remember God’s faithfulness and Jesus’ words? How do you remind yourself to remember God’s truths? What gets in the way of remembering God’s faithfulness?
- 8) Read Luke 23:38-43. We are reminded that not only do we need to “remember” what God has done for us, but also that Jesus “remembers” us. That Jesus knows us. What do you think of this conversation? Is it helpful to know that Jesus also “remembers” us?

