

EARLY IN THE MORNING

LUKE 24:1-12; 36-48

Text: Luke 24:1

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Introduction:

Our Bibles are filled with statements about the morning.

- We are told that our Savior prayed early in the morning.
- Joshua, in the Old Testament, is pictured as a man who rose up early in the morning.
- Think of that morning in Gen. 22 when Abraham rose up early and took Isaac to Mt. Moriah to sacrifice him.
- What a morning it was for Jacob when he woke from sleep in the morning and set up a pillar of stones in honor of God at Bethel.

- It must have been a glorious morning for Daniel when the first rays of sunshine lit up the city of Babylon after that night in the lion's den.
- Imagine how beautiful the morning was for the disciples after they spent that terrible night on the Sea of Galilee in that storm.

All of these were great mornings. However none of them can compare to the morning that see in this passage.

This was the morning that the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead, conquering death, Hell and the grave.

There has never been a morning like that before, and there will never be one like it hereafter.

Notice:

1. IT WAS A MORNING OF SOLEMN REFLECTION (VS. 1)

Luke 24:1

¹Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.

As the morning began to dawn on the first day of the week after the Lord had died on the cross, some

women came to the tomb to finish anointing the body of our Lord for His burial.

Nicodemus and Joseph had begun this process the day the Lord had died.

John 19:38-42

³⁸ And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. ³⁹ And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*. ⁴⁰ Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. ⁴² There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation *day*; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

While these women were heading to the tomb, our Lord's disciples were locked up inside the Upper Room trembling in fear that the same kind of death that Jesus had met awaited them also. (see John 20:19)

Certainly, these women were sad and the disciples were scared.

The reason; they all had believed that Jesus to be the Messiah. They had placed their faith in Him and they had expected that He would set up His Kingdom, throwing off the Roman yoke of bondage. Even though He had told them of the cross and of the resurrection,

they had never grasped the message, or the meaning of Christ's words.

Now He's dead!

The One that they had placed all their hopes in was gone. This man Who had so radically changed their lives by His power and had demonstrated the love and power of God to them had died a violent and humiliating death. Surely, it was a sad day for His followers.

It was a morning of Solemn Reflections

2. IT WAS A MORNING OF STARTLING REVELATIONS (VS. 2-12)

Luke 24:2-12

² And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. ³ And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: ⁵ And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, ⁷ Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary *the mother* of James, and other *women that were* with them, which told these things unto the apostles. ¹¹ And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. ¹² Then arose Peter, and

ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

In the midst of their sadness on that morning, the Lord took great pains to minister to the needs of their hearts.

Note a few things that He did that morning:

A. He rolled away the stone from the tomb. (vs. 2)

Mark 16:2-3

² And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. ³ And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

Matthew 28:2

² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

He rolled away the stone not to escape, but rather to allow man the opportunity to look in to the empty tomb.

B. He sent an angelic messenger with the good news that Jesus was alive from the dead. (vs. 4-7)

Matthew 28:2-7

² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: ⁴ And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*. ⁵ And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. ⁶ He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

Mark 16:5-7

⁵ And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. ⁶ And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

C. He offered words of encouragement for Peter who had denied Him

Mark 16:7

⁷ But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

D. He met Mary Magdalene outside the tomb

John 20:11-17

¹¹ But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre, ¹² And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ And they

say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. ¹⁴ And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. ¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. ¹⁷ Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and *to* my God, and your God.

She had great love for the Lord.

E. He left a message for His followers inside the tomb

John 20:5-8

⁵ And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. ⁶ Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, ⁷ And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

An understanding of the oriental custom of the napkin speaks volumes here. When a man with servants was eating a meal, he would use his napkin to signal them during the course of the meal. If he left the table and wadded his napkin up, it meant that he was finished and would not be back. If, however, he neatly folded

the napkin, it told his servants that he was stepping away for a moment, but he would be back! Jesus was telling His disciples, "***I may be out of your sight right now, but I'll be right back!***"

F. He revealed Himself to other disciples as the traveled broken hearted in Luke 24:13-35

For us, 2,000 years removed from the resurrection, the message has not changed one bit! We still need to hear the good news that Jesus has risen from the dead! He is alive today and there is hope for tomorrow!

That person who is trapped in sin and sees no avenue of escape needs to know that Jesus made a way to set you free! You need to know, dear friend, that if you come to Jesus for salvation or for help that He will be there to hear you, to save you and to help you through this life. Everyone in the building needs to know that Jesus is alive!

The song writer penned these words:

I serve a risen Savior; He's in the world today;

I know that He is living, whatever men may say;

I see His hand of mercy; I hear His voice of cheer;

And just the time I need Him He's always near.

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me

along life's narrow way.

He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know He lives?

He lives within my heart.

3. IT WAS A MORNING OF STUNNING REALIZATIONS (VS. 36-43)

Luke 24:36-43

³⁶ And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. ³⁷ But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

³⁸ And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. ⁴⁰ And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet. ⁴¹ And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? ⁴² And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. ⁴³ And he took *it*, and did eat before them.

While the disciples were cowering in the Upper Room out of fear for their lives, something miraculous happened in their presence. Jesus, the One Who had died just three days before, was standing in their midst!

They were terrified and thought they saw a ghost.

However, Jesus had some news to tell.

He showed them the nail holes in His hands and in His feet and to prove that He was real, He offered to let them touch Him and then He sat down with them to eat.

Most of the disciples hadn't believed until this moment, now they are convinced, Jesus is alive.

The statement: "***And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered...***" means that it seemed too good to be true. They were beside themselves with joy and couldn't believe what they were seeing! It was an exciting moment for the disciples of our Lord.

This is what needs to happen in the lives of many people living in our world today. Men need to realize that Jesus Christ is more than a baby in a manger or some poor old fellow Who got Himself crucified. He is more than a story in a dusty old book. People need to understand that Jesus is alive! He is real and that He is the only hope people have.

This day is about Jesus! It is about the fact that He died for our sins while we were yet sinners, Rom. 5:8. It is about the fact that He was buried and then three days later, He kicked the backdoor out of the tomb for ever

and made a way for you and me to enter into eternal life by our merely trusting Him as our Savior.

Close:

Because Jesus lives, You and I can be saved by the grace of God.

Because He lives, we can have our sins washed away forever.

Because He lives, we can go to Heaven when we leave this world.

Because He lives, the grave has no power over those who believe.

Because He lives, eternal life is our present possession.

Because He lives, one day we too will live with Him in that heavenly city.

Because He lives, I'll never have to take a step in this world alone.

Because He lives, there is hope, there is help and there is a home awaiting us in eternity.

I ask you, have you come to the realization that Jesus is alive and that He is Who you need? Do you understand

what will happen if you die without Him? Do you realize that there is no other way into Heaven than through the Lord Jesus Christ? Did you know that He loves you? Did you know that His death was for you? Did you know that His death will not mean anything to you until you bow before Him in repentance and humility and confess your sins unto Him? Did you know that you could do that very thing this morning and be forever saved today?

Oh, what a morning that was when Jesus rose again! Why not let this be the morning when you allow Him to fix whatever is wrong in your heart today?

He lives and He lives for you.