



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series
Supports Session 5: Resurrected (Easter)
Sermon Title: "Lessons From A Graveyard"
Passage: Luke 23:55–24:11

Connection to Luke 24

Several times in Luke Jesus had prophesied that He would be arrested, crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. His followers didn't fully understand His statements about a resurrection, and based on their actions immediately after His death, they weren't expecting it either. The events recorded in verses 1-11 confirmed Jesus' prophecy and taught His followers valuable lessons they would need as they continued His mission.

Introduction/Opening

A college professor who taught the Psychology of Death and Dying course, included as a part of the class requirement a field trip to a local funeral home. The class toured the facility, including the area where bodies are prepared for burial. They also spent time with the funeral director, getting an understanding of grieving from his perspective. The trip was an incredible teaching moment and many of the students would go on to serve as counselors, with this experience being invaluable as they helped families deal with grief.

Mary Magdalene had a similar experience: not in a funeral home, but rather in a graveyard. On that cool Sunday morning almost 2000 years ago, when she arrived at the graveyard, Mary realized Jesus had been raised from the dead, just as He promised. She learned some very valuable lessons that comforted her in that moment but also for the rest of her life.

Outline

1. The resurrection taught her Jesus is true to His word, so we can lean on Him (vv. 6-8).
 - a. According to verse 1, on the first day of the week the women went to the tomb to anoint the crucified body of Jesus. They went to anoint the body because they didn't really expect Him to be resurrected.
 - b. But they should have expected. He told them He would be crucified and resurrected (Luke 9:22), and the men reminded them of His words (24:6-7).
 - c. The men were helping the women understand that Jesus is true to His word; He is trustworthy. If He kept His word about the resurrection, He would keep the many other promises He had made. A trustworthy Jesus is someone we can lean on.
 1. He promised to give eternal life to all who believe in Him.
 2. He promised to never leave His followers alone.
 3. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in His followers.
 4. He promised to give His followers rest if they would but take His yoke.

2. The resurrection taught her Jesus is triumphant over death, so we can live with Him (vv. 5-6).
 - a. In verse 5 the angel asked the rhetorical question, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” The word “living” is a substantival participle and rightly can be translated “living One.” The point was simple, yet powerful: “Of course He isn’t among the dead because He is the Living One. He is risen!”
 - b. Peter stated it well in his sermon in Acts 2:24: “God raised him up, ending the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by death.” The Living One triumphed over death!
 - c. And because He was triumphant over death, we can live forever with Him. Addressing the grieving Martha, Jesus made this reassuring statement: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’” (John 11:25-26)
 - d. The truth is, all of us are sinners and we deserve to die—not just physical death, but eternal separation from God. But because Jesus defeated death, if we place our faith in Him, we will have eternal life.

Conclusion

Several years ago, a pastor had the privilege of visiting Gordon’s Calvary, the garden tomb outside of Jerusalem many believe to be the location of Jesus’ burial. As he drew near to the entrance of the tomb he was stuck by the potential significance of the site. If this was indeed the tomb in which Jesus was buried, it was historic. He was not certain what to expect when he peered in, but the moment he saw the vacant slab of stone he was reminded of an important truth he had learned years ago: “Where, death, is your victory? Where, death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!” (1 Cor. 15:55-57)

Michael Priest lives in Memphis where he has served as pastor of Bartlett Baptist Church for the last 18 years. He has been married to the former Carolyn Leone for 35 years, and they have 4 adult sons, Jonathan, Caleb, David, and Matthew, 2 daughters-in-law, Alex and Rachel, and 1 granddaughter, Cylah. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Blue Mountain College and both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is an avid rock and mountain climber.

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