

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

WHY SEEK YE THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?

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SCRIPTURE READING: **LUKE 24:1-25**

Luke 24:4-8, 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,

1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message January 19, 2020

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. In order to get a full appreciation for what is contained in this chapter, we need to go back a review a couple of verses in **chapter 23**.
- b. **Luke 23:54-56**, *And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. 55: And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. 56: And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.*
- c. Since there is much error on when Christ died, let's deal with **verse 54**. *And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.* Although it does not give us an actual day, we conclude that it was Friday, because the Sabbath was on Saturday.
- d. Also in **Luke 24:1**, we see it was the first day of the week that He rose again. *Now 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.*
- e. We conclude that He was in the tomb on Friday, Saturday and rose early Sunday morning. That would be three days and three nights according to the way the Jews reckon time. Any part of a day would be considered a full day.
- f. As we analyze these verses we find that these same woman who had followed the Lord Jesus Christ, were there. The Bible indicates that they even knew how His body was laid.
- g. It is not clear as to whether they were there when Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus wrapped the body. **John 19:40**, *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.*

- h. The women stayed as long as they could. They had to return home before the Sabbath. **56:** *And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.*
- i. If you recall, it was the ladies that were not in hiding. Mary of Bethany had anointed the Lord's body earlier when He was alive and she was criticized for doing so. **John 12:5-7,** *Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? 6: This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. 7: Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.*
- j. This time, Jesus was gone so the spices and the ointments were not used.
- k. In this passage we find without a doubt that Jesus leaves the tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea. He was raised from the dead by God the Father. **Galatians 1:1,** *Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)*
- l. He visits the disciples on the road to Emmaus. He goes to see the assembled disciples and reveals Himself unto the eleven.
- m. Then Jesus gives us a commission to do His work. He promised that He would send the Holy Spirit and then He ascends into Heaven with an attitude of praise and thanksgiving. Now He is seated at the right hand of the Father. **Acts 1:11,** *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*
- n. With that introduction let's see what God's Word has for us today from **Luke 24.**

3. NINE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. Now upon the first day of the week.

1. **Luke 24:1,** *Now 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.
2. These ladies have been extremely busy. They had prepared spices and were there to anoint the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. *very early in the morning,* - This was the first day of the week; which is our Sunday.

b. And they found the stone rolled away.

1. **Luke 24:2,** *And they found the stone rolled away* from the sepulchre.
2. If you recall in other passages, that a great stone had been rolled in place. The purpose was to prevent the disciples from stealing the Lord's body.
3. Of course we remember that Jesus had said earlier in **John 2:19-21,** *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20: Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21: But he spake of the temple of his body.*
4. The disciples did not understand this saying so there was a lot of unbelief involved.
5. Here, the ladies found this great stone had already been rolled away.
6. The stone was not rolled away to allow the Lord Jesus to come out; it was rolled away so they could see that the tomb was empty.

c. And found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

1. **Luke 24:3**, *And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.*
2. He was already gone. He had already departed.
3. It is amazing that **it takes unbelieving individuals on this side of the cross to deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
4. We have the facts and we have eye-witnesses and we **know the tomb was empty.**
5. Regardless of what others say, we believe God and we know that they found not the body of the Lord Jesus.
6. Here recently, there has been news that people have found the bones of Jesus; we know that is certainly not true. **He is seated at the right hand of the Father making intercessions for you and I.**

d. Why seek ye the living among the dead?

1. **Luke 24:4-8**, *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,*
2. Having not found the body of the Lord Jesus, they were much perplexed.
3. *two men stood by them in shining garments:* - they were afraid. Fear had gripped them.
4. Why seek ye the living among the dead? **6:** *He is not here, but is risen:* - Jesus told them that He would rise again the third day.
5. Although these were followers of Jesus, they were confused. There was unbelief involved.
6. As a matter of fact we will see that when the women came to bear the news, Peter and John came running to the tomb.
7. It is interesting to see the reaction of the two men.
8. Jesus lays out the entire concept that He was to fall into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and that He will arise from the dead.
9. Having been reminded of that, they did remember.
10. We must remember that there is no contradiction in the Word of God when the preserved Word of God is rightly divided.
11. Each writer gives a perspective that God wanted them to give.
12. The Word of God came to us by holy men of God. **2 Peter 1:21**, *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
13. The women remembered the words that Jesus had spoken. They were amazed and perplexed and could not believe what was going on.

e. And returned from the sepulchre.

1. **Luke 24:9-10**, 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.*
2. Although these women were confused, they came back to give the apostles a report.

3. Notice it was the eleven and others who were in the company. *unto the eleven, and to all the rest*
4. It identifies that the women were involved.
- f. And their words seemed to them as idle tales.**
 1. **Luke 24:11, And their words seemed to them as idle tales,** *and they believed them not.*
 2. You would have thought that the women and their testimony was credible evidence that Jesus was alive. However, the disbelief was abundant among the apostles.
 3. The Lord told them over and over again that He would rise again. *seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.*
- g. Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre.**
 1. **Luke 24:12, 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.*
 2. Simon Peter had a problem believing immediately.
 3. *wondering in himself* – He is mulling it over in his mind."Could this really be true?"
 4. We know that Peter was finally convinced that the Lord Jesus Christ was alive.
 5. John went with Peter, but he was convinced immediately.
- h. And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus.**
 1. **Luke 24:13, And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus,** *which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.*
 2. There is a question about the journey to Emmaus. What is the distance? It would be about seven miles.
 3. When I grew up in Swartout, it was about seven miles to Livingston.
 4. They had a little distance to go as they visited with the stranger who appeared to them. The stranger was Jesus Christ.
 5. There is much that we can learn on the road to Emmaus.
- i. And they talked together of all these things which had happened.**
 1. **Luke 24:14-16, And they talked together of all these things which had happened.** **15:** *And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. 16: But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.*
 2. On the road to Emmaus, these disciples are joined by the Lord Jesus Christ.
 3. They did not recognize who He was.
 4. We do know that there was much disbelief regarding His resurrection.
 5. We know from previous messages that large sums of money had been paid to say that the Lord's disciples stole Him away. This was a myth and we know the real truth was they did not believe because they were not looking for Him to rise from the dead.
 6. God did not permit them to know who He was. They were discussing the things that had happened regarding His death and burial.
- j. What manner of communications are these that ye have.**
 1. **Luke 24:17-18, And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have** *one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? 18: And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a*

stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

2. The discussion that was taking place was about the arrest, crucifixion, and possible resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. It is only Dr. Luke that identifies one of these men as Cleopas.
4. It was hard for them to believe that anyone in the area had not heard the news.
5. Apparently it was prevalent for them to be informed in those days.
6. Of course Jesus knew all of what had happened.
7. These men were not able to discern who He was.
8. It was open communication.
9. Paul, in his defence before King Agrippa had said in **Acts 26:26**, *For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.*
10. There was nothing secret about this situation. It was public news, but this stranger appeared to not know what was going on.

k. And he said unto them, What things?

1. **Luke 24:19**, *And he said unto them, What things?* *And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: 20: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. 21: But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.*
2. Jesus is asking them about the details.
3. They identify Him as a prophet. We know that when He walked the face of the earth He occupied the office of a prophet, as He is seated at the right hand of the Father He occupies the office of High priest and as He comes back to the Mount of Olives He will be known as King of kings and Lord of lords.
4. They could not believe that He had come back from the dead. They dwell on the fact that the chief priest and the rulers had delivered Him and condemned Him to death.
5. Then they give testimony that they thought He would redeem Israel. They identify this as being the first day of the week - *to day is the third day since these things were done.*
6. Based on the current news they could not believe that He was raised from the dead.
7. They did not understand the providence of God. Their faith was weak.
8. When our faith is weak, almost anything will jump on us.
9. This is why I want **Chesswood Baptist Church** grounded in the Word of God. I want you to **know what you believe and why you believe it.**

l. And when they found not his body.

1. **Luke 24:22-23**, *Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 23: And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.*
2. Cleopas and the other disciple are repeating what the women had said.

3. There was unbelief on their part as well.
 4. *women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 23: And when they found not his body... saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. Just to say He is alive and not believe it from the heart is a ticket straight to hell. Acts 8:13, Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Acts 8:21-23, Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. 22; Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. 23: For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.*
 5. There is no question that the Lord Jesus Christ is alive for evermore!
- m. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre.**
1. **Luke 24:24, And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.**
 2. They are attempting to validate the evidence that these women told them the truth.
 3. When they checked it out they found that it was exactly as the women had said.
- n. O fools, and slow of heart to believe.**
1. **Luke 24:25, Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:**
 2. One of the things we must understand is that we should believe and accept God's promises as they are. **2 Peter 1:4, Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**
 3. I have a problem with people attempting to change, rewrite and make the Bible plain so we can understand.
 4. I believe that the Bible is truly God's **preserved** Word and it is written in such a way that a born again believer can thoroughly understand it. **1 Corinthians 2:14, But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**
 5. We can believe everything that the prophets have said because the Bible is God's Word and we must hold it in awe. We are not to touch it in any way, shape or form. **Deuteronomy 4:2, Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.**
 6. In this verse God does not show the print of the nails in His hands or the wound in His side.
 7. He refers them to the prophets. We cannot look at the prophets unless we hold the Scriptures in awe. **Psalms 119:161, Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.**
 8. **O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:** - I believe that the Bible is inerrant and every single thing in the preserved Word of God is for the development of mankind. **2 Timothy 3:16, All scripture is given by**

inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

9. **I take a firm stand that if we believe the Bible, there is no need to change it.**

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour?
- b. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, today needs to be your day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6:2**, *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*
- c. All have sinned. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- d. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- e. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- f. Please stand?

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