

## Slow of Heart to Believe

Luke 24.1–27

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • February 26, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2023

Scripture Reader and Reading: Billy Henshall – Luke 23.55–56

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – Songs on the resurrection

### **Prelude:**

#### **I. It actually happened.**

- A. The Creator left heaven,
  - 1. took on a human body,
  - 2. allowed himself to suffer a horrible death, and
    - a) then his friends placed his body in a tomb.
    - b) What then does that mean for us?
- B. I showed you this morning what that means for us.

#### **II. Since his friends did not complete**

- A. the preparation of the body for burial, because
- B. the Sabbath was about to happen
  - 1. when they needed to rest for 24 hours,
  - 2. as the Law taught,
    - a) they went to finish on the first day of the week.
    - b) Let's see what happened when they got to the tomb.

### **Persuasion:**

#### **I. Luke 24.1–7 • Perplexed Over the Missing Body**

**1 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. 3 Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still 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.'"**

A. Luke wrote that they were greatly perplexed.

1. I can just imagine.

a) They knew that Jesus was dead, because

(1) they had witnessed his death.

b) They knew that they had the right tomb, because

(1) they watched where Joseph and Nicodemus placed it.

2. Yet, their perplexity grew out of

a) their ignorance or

b) rather forgetfulness.

B. Luke wrote further, "Behold, two men stood by them in shining garments."

1. Look at this!

2. Rather than finding the body of Jesus in the tomb,

a) they found two men in the tomb, and

b) these men had glowing garments,

(1) a clear reference to the fact

(2) that they were angels.

C. What would you do,

1. if you went to a tomb and

2. found two men in shining garments?

a) I think all of us would have been like those women:

b) Fearful and

c) we would have bowed down to the earth.

D. The angels had a good question:

1. Why seek the living among the dead?

- a) Since Jesus is alive,
  - b) he is not here.
    - (1) He had risen from the dead!
    - (2) People often say that women
      - (a) were the first to announce the resurrection, but
      - (b) that is not true because it was angels who did.
2. Then the angels reminded the women
- a) of what he had said before,
  - b) that he would be delivered into the hands of sinful men,
  - c) that he would be crucified, and
  - d) that he would rise again on the third day.
    - (1) He had already told them what would happen.
    - (2) However, they forgot.
      - (a) Grief so overwhelmed them
      - (b) that they did not remember what Jesus had taught them.
  - e) Consider what he said earlier:

**22 “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”**

**– Luke 9.22**

**44 “Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.”**

**– Luke 9.44**

**31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 For He will be**

**delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. 33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.” 34 But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.**

**– Luke 18.31–34**

## **II. Luke 24.8–11 • They Remembered His Words**

**8 And they remembered His words. 9 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.**

A. Verse 8 is short, but

1. it says so much.
2. Once the angels reminded the women of what Jesus had said,
  - a) they must have said,
  - b) “Yes, he did say those things!”
    - (1) They probably remembered the scene when he said it’
    - (2) remembering what he said changed them completely.

B. So the first thing they did was

1. go where the 11 remaining apostles were and
2. the others who were closely associated with the apostles.

C. Luke then revealed the names of some of the women:

1. Mary Magdalene
2. Joanna
3. Mary the mother of James
4. And some other women.

D. Yet, the apostles were like the women initially:

1. Forgetting what Jesus had said.
2. Therefore, they did not believe.

### **III. Luke 24.12 • Peter Saw Only the Linen Cloths**

**12 But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.**

A. Peter had to check it out for himself.

1. Therefore, he ran to the tomb, and
2. who knows what thoughts raced through his mind as he went.

B. Luke even recorded that Peter had to stoop down to get inside the tomb.

C. Once inside,

1. he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves,
2. that is they were in two separate folded places.

D. He left,

1. astonished to himself
2. what must have happened, because
  - a) the tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers,
  - b) who defended the tomb with their lives.
    - (1) However, they were gone as well.
    - (2) Where then could the body of Jesus be?
      - (a) Were the women correct?
      - (b) How could this be?

### **IV. Luke 24.13–27 • Are You the Only Stranger in Jerusalem?**

**A. 24.13–15 • Talking of All the Things of Jesus**

**13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village**

**called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.**

1. These two men were part of “the rest,” as Luke put it
  - a) when the women reported to the apostles.
  - b) They heard what the women had said and they also were astonished.
2. It must be that after the women left,
  - a) they decided to go to Emmaus where they were staying.
  - b) It was a seven-mile walk from Jerusalem and
    - (1) what kind of conversations did they have along the way?
    - (2) It is beautiful that they spoke of Jesus.
3. Did you see what happened?
  - a) As they were talking about Jesus and the things that happened to him,
  - b) he was walking and got close to them, and
    - (1) joined them on their walk.
    - (2) He heard them speaking.

**B. 24.16–18 • Do You Not Know What Happened?**

**16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. 17 And He said to them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?” 18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?”**

1. However, he or the Spirit or something
  - a) kept their eyes from recognizing him, and
  - b) so they did not know that the one they talked about was right there!
2. He asked them a curious question about what made them sad.
  - a) Has Jesus ever joined in on our conversations?

- b) Is he curious about what we discuss?
- 3. Everyone knew what had happened the past few days in Jerusalem,
  - a) leading Cleopas to question
  - b) whether Jesus was the only stranger in Jerusalem.
- 4. You know how big events affect everyone,
  - a) so that everyone knows about it.
  - b) Remember 9.11.

**C. 24.19–24 • The Things Concerning Jesus of Nazareth**

**19 And He said to them, “What things?” So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who 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 crucified Him. 21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. 22 Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. 23 When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. 24 And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”**

- 1. Can you imagine Jesus asking you, “What things?” about current events?
  - a) What would we say to him concerning what fills our conversations?
  - b) See also Mark 9.33

**33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, “What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?”**

**– Mark 9.33**

- 2. What I like here is
  - a) that they preached to Jesus
  - b) without knowing that they were preaching to Jesus.

- (1) He was Jesus of Nazareth.
  - (2) He was a Prophet.
  - (3) He was mighty in deed and in word,
    - (a) all of which was done
    - (b) before God and all the people.
  - (4) Their leaders delivered Jesus to be condemned to death.
  - (5) They wanted him crucified.
3. These two men had pinned all their hopes on Jesus, but
    - a) somehow they thought that he let them down.
    - b) They did not know how Israel would be formed into the church.
  4. In that last sentence in verse 21,
    - a) they hinted at the fact that three days had passed, but
    - b) they really did not come out and say why three days was significant.
  5. They told Jesus that they had heard that Jesus was resurrected, but
    - a) the two men were not putting everything together.
    - b) They just laid out what Jesus had told them would happen.
      - (1) Yet, they could not see it, because
      - (2) like the women and like the apostles, including Peter,
        - (a) they forgot what Jesus had said numerous times.
        - (b) They saw prophecy fulfilled right before their eyes, but
          - i) they could not see it.
  6. Can you see that these two disciples were defeated?
    - a) They were defeated because they did not remember his word.
    - b) I think that pictures us sometimes too.

**D. 24.25–27 • The Christ Had to Suffer**

**25 Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all**

**that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**

1. As they continued walking down the road to Emmaus,
  - a) Jesus revealed what their problem was,
    - (1) they were foolish and slow of heart
    - (2) to believe in all that the prophets said.
      - (a) It is a matter of believing when you see the evidence.
      - (b) It is a matter of believing all that the prophets have spoken.
      - (c) They had heard the testimony of the apostles (Peter and John).
      - (d) They had heard what the angels said.
      - (e) And of course, they knew what the women reported.
2. The Christ was to suffer and then enter into his glory.
  - a) Then he taught them what Moses and the prophets said, and
  - b) showed how he was connected with all those things.
3. They could see the glory of the kingdom,
  - a) leading them to think
  - b) that Jesus was the One to redeem Israel, but
    - (1) they could not see the suffering servant Messiah and
    - (2) the suffering that comes to all who follow him.
4. Undoubtedly, they spoke of various prophecies, but
  - a) they had not been able to put it all together,
  - b) to make the proper connections.

**Exhortation:**

**I. The resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth was the ultimate miracle,**

A. showing him to be the Son of God:

**4 ...declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.**

– Romans 1.4

B. It was a self-resurrection.

## **II. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of Christianity.**

A. First Corinthians 15

### **III. Jesus did rise from the dead.**

A. The disciples did not steal his body.

1. They never would have done such a thing.
2. They feared the Romans and the Jews.

B. He did not merely faint.

C. They did not collectively have simultaneous hallucinations at the same time.

### **IV. The women and Peter had seen**

A. the linen cloths folded and placed neatly

B. where the head and the feet of Jesus had been.

1. However, to see Jesus is another thing!
2. We cannot do what they did, that is,
  - a) seen the linen cloths and Jesus, but
  - b) we have their testimony in the Scriptures.