

5. The women begin to believe he is risen when they “remember” the words of Jesus, before they ever see him alive (reread verses 8-9). How do the words of Jesus and the witness of the entire Word of God help bolster your faith in the resurrection?

6. The women can't wait to share the good news with the disciples. How does getting the depth of the goodness of the news help us take the risk of sharing it with people far from God?

7. How does this passage offer hope to saints who sin, to skeptics who search, and to lapsed Christians who long to come back to God?

5. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

SERIES: Easter 2016

SERMON: “Why an Empty Tomb?”

TEXT: Luke 24:1-12

DATE: March 26/27, 2016

Each gospel tells the same story from different perspectives to accomplish different (but related) purposes. Luke's gospel uniquely explores why the tomb is empty. The answer raises other penetrating questions. The answers to these questions offer hope to saints who sin, to skeptics who search, and to lapsed Christians who long to come back to God.

Five Questions for the Empty Tomb

1. Why is the tomb _____? (Luke 24:1-6a)

Why isn't Jesus _____ them?

2. Why are the _____ at the tomb? (Luke 24:6-7)

The Easter story begins at an empty tomb because his most _____ followers failed to believe Jesus.

At the core of _____ is the failure to believe God.

Reconciliation and redemption come through _____.

Saving faith not only _____ God, saving faith _____ God.

3. Why are the _____ at the tomb?

Pure _____.

God _____ us into all the wrong places.

Luke 19: 10 “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 15: 7 "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Luke 24:1-12

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

4. Why do the women _____ from the tomb? (Luke 24:8-9)

That's what you do with such incredibly _____!

Because Jesus is alive...

- His death was _____ to forgive your sin.

Romans 4: 25 [Jesus] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

- We are already now resurrected to life.

Ephesians 2: 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

- We are _____ resurrected bodies when he returns.

1 Corinthians 15: 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ...22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

5. Where are the _____? (Luke 24:9,11-12)

J.B. Phillips: "Over the years I have had hundreds of conversations with people, many of them of higher intellectual calibre than my own, who quite obviously had no idea of what Christianity is really about. ...My conclusion was that they knew virtually nothing. ...it is not as though the evidence had been examined and found unconvincing: it had simply never been examined."

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Read Luke 24:1-12. No other gospel but Luke's include these words of the angels at the tomb: "'Why do you seek the living among the dead?' How does this answer the question, 'Why isn't Jesus there to meet them in the tomb?'"

3. Why do you think it would it have been hard for Jesus' followers to conceive of Jesus actually being alive and walking around?

4. Jesus' closest associates doubt in the resurrection, even though Jesus told them he would be raised. The angels point them back to Jesus' words. Jesus points the disciples back to the Word of God (read Luke 24:25-27; 24:45-47). Why do you think there is this emphasis on the Word?