Putting Death to Death

Luke 24:1-12

February 23, 2025

The Big Idea: Something happened on that first Easter morning that no one expected, and no one can ignore. The Christian faith rests entirely on the historicity of the resurrection. If you deny it, you must be able to account for what happened that first Easter morning.

Luke 24:1-12 (NASB)

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men *suddenly* stood near them in gleaming clothing; 5 and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, "Why are you seeking the living One among the dead? 6 He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, 7 saying that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise *from the dead.*" 8 And they remembered His words, 9 and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. 10 Now *these women* were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. 11 But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe the women.12 Nevertheless, Peter got up and ran to the tomb; and when he stooped and looked in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

Why No One Expected it

+ Jesus spoke clearly about His death and resurrection (ex. Luke 18:31-34, John 2).
+ The women expected the tomb to be sealed and the body of Jesus to be there.
+ The 1st century was not more accepting of a supernatural event like the resurrection than the 21st century.
+ Both Jews and Greeks had no reason to change their views on resurrection.
+ The Jews did not believe in a personal, physical resurrection.

Why it Had to Have Happened

1. The Christian faith lives and dies based on the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus.

2. The only plausible reason for the Gospel writers to have women from the 1st century be the first witnesses of the resurrection is if that is exactly what happened.

3. If the resurrection cannot be disproved in the 1st century, it cannot and will not be disproved in the 21st century.

4. Paul preached a resurrected Christ because he witnessed a resurrected Christ.

5. If Christ is not raised, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, and Christians have died in vain.

6. The resurrection of Jesus is the very thing which gives our lives meaning and significance.

Why We Will Never Be the Same

- Far too many people treat Jesus like a dead hero instead of a risen and glorified Savior.
- If death was powerless to hold Him, it is powerless to hold His people.
- The Christian faith does not only produce good people; it produces changed people.
- Our great enemy has been conquered by the Giver of life.

The Christian church is helpless and hopeless if it is stripped of the reality and historicity of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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