

Luke 24:1-12 Common English Bible

24 Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. ⁵The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" ⁶He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Human One^[a] must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words. ⁹When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. ¹¹Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. ¹²But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

He Returned Home Wondering What Had Happened Luke 24:1-12

I have to say it, Men. Men, we just don't get it! Look right there it's in the text.

Verses 10 and 11. I'll paraphrase: The women told the men what they had seen and heard and (here it is). "Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women." Come on now! Why can't we believe the women?

Jesus has been telling the disciples since, what? Luke 1 when the angel tells Mary, "There will be no end to his kingdom." And then in chapter 9:21 Jesus says directly to Peter, "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected – by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts – and be killed and be raised on the third day." Right there he said it!

And in chapter 17 Jesus lets the men know that God's kingdom is coming, but can't come until "the Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation." But God's Kingdom will certainly come! And chapter 18 has Jesus repeating chapter 9, "The Human One will be handed over to the Gentiles.

He will be ridiculed, mistreated, and spit upon. After torturing him they will kill him. On the third day he will rise up!”

Why would Peter and the other men not get it? Could it be that it was just too hard to believe? Was it too impossible? Or, or could it be that they now knew what was in store for them? For Jesus accurately described the torture and pain, (there still was the rising from the dead!) But he told them about the pain.

But I wonder, could it be that they didn't want it to happen? Jesus also invites them all to take up their cross and follow him. If the torture is true and the death is real and the rising from the dead has happened, then what about me? Must I now pick up my cross and follow?

Peter had witnessed Jesus' teachings, and healings, and demonstrations and his wisdom, courage and grace. He'd seen the miracles. He'd been fed from nothing and calmed in the midst of a storm. Heck, Peter even walked on water...for a little bit. So I wonder what all this means?

Thank God we have the rest of the story that has continued for 2000 years.

We see that Peter moves from this wondering and not knowing, to leading the church to new heights for he did indeed pick up his cross and follow. Peter wondered no more. He followed so that we can too follow this Lord, this Messiah, this King of kings and Lord of lords.

So we gather at sunrise to say thank you God for the gift of Jesus, his teachings, his life, his witness and for his resurrection which makes all things new! Thanks be to God for He is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Amen.

Preached by Rev. David M. Montgomery
First Presbyterian Church, Bowling Green, OH
Easter Sunrise, Year C
April 17, 2022