

## Luke 24:1-12 – “The Grave is Open!”

Introduction: **Because the resurrection occurred as Jesus predicted it would, we must respond believing that he is alive.**

### 1. The Women Visit the Tomb

- Jesus is dead. For the disciples everything seemed to be on track for Jesus to ascend to the earthly throne in Jerusalem. Then, in just one night, it all slipped through their fingers. Thursday evening they were looking forward to the coming kingdom, Friday morning Jesus is hanging on the cross.
- Jesus has been buried in a tomb, carved out of a rock face, and his body has been sealed in by a large rock. The women come out early on Sunday morning to put more spices on his body, to demonstrate their love for him one last time.
- Somehow, the door on the tomb has been left open, and the body is gone. The women are baffled at how this could happen.

### 2. The Angels Jog Their Memories

- Suddenly, two men appear, and they are dressed in clothes that flash like lightning. These are angels, the messengers of God. Their appearance causes the women to bow down with their faces to the ground. These messengers have come to explain the empty tomb.
- The women have forgotten that Jesus predicted this would happen. He told them over and over that he would not only die, but rise again on the third day (e.g. Matt 16:21; Mk 8:31, 9:31, 10:33-34).
- Why didn't they understand? They refused to let God's word alter their imagination. We can do the same. We all have a vision, conscious or subconscious, about what your lives should look like. We don't always let God's word tell us what 'the good life' looks like.
- The women now understand: the door was left open, not because someone broke in, but it was left open after Jesus walked out.

### 3. The Disciples Doubt the Story

- God shows his power in choosing women to be the first messengers of the resurrection. They are specifically named to give more validity to the story. These women return to tell the disciples that Jesus is alive, but this good news appears to the disciples to be nonsense.
- Many of our neighbours agree that the resurrection is nonsense. They argue that Jesus' body was \_\_\_\_\_, or that he didn't die, but actually just \_\_\_\_\_. Or, they claim, his disciples only saw him in imaginary visions. None of these explanations are more believable than the evidence presented for the resurrection.

- A dead Saviour is no good to us. We need “the living One.” We need someone who passed through the grave and came out on the other side. Because he has the power to do that, we know that we will join him, by faith, in eternal life.