



## Easter: What Difference Does It Make?

Luke 24:1-12; 1 Peter 1:3-5  
April 17, 2022

**THE BIG IDEA:** If there was no resurrection of Jesus, then we are left with only living for the **moment** and with whatever understanding and strength we have within ourselves to face life and death. If Jesus was resurrected from a state of death, then there is a **basis** for our faith, hope and purpose in this life, power to be **saved** from sin, and power to be **obedient** to God.

Luke 24:1-12 (ESV)

**24** But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were **perplexed** about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup>And as they were **frightened** and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here, but has risen. **Remember how he told you,** while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the **Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”** <sup>8</sup>And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb **they told all these things** to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who **told these things to the apostles,** <sup>11</sup>but these words seemed to them an **idle tale**, and **they did not believe them.** <sup>12</sup>But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

## Lessons From the Graveyard

- Even when God is **silent**, He remains sovereign.
- Failure to know or remember God’s **promises** will leave us perplexed and frightened.
- To remember God’s words, we must first **know** His Word.
- We’re all in favor of Resurrection, but to experience it there “must” be **death**.
- Not everyone will **believe** your story about Jesus.
- **Faith** is a personal experience and choice that each person must decide for themself.

1 Peter 1:3–5 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, **kept in heaven for you,** <sup>5</sup>who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

## 3 Easter Challenges:

1. Because of the resurrection, we can be **born** again. Will you trust in God’s mercy to save you?
2. In the resurrection, we can see what really **matters**. Will you choose to treasure Christ above all?
3. The Resurrection of Jesus (and the meaning of the Cross) and the salvation He offers us are matters of **faith**. You must decide if you believe. Do you?

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*Where reasons are given, we don't need faith.*

*Where only darkness surrounds us,  
we have no means for seeing except by faith.*

–Elisabeth Elliot

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