

**RESURRECTION DAY
EASTER 2010
LUKE 24:1-11**

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY THAT JESUS WAS RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD?

1. All **four Gospels** record this historical event that changed all of eternity (Matt. 28:1-8; Luke 24:1-11; Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-10).
2. The minor differences between the accounts are all easily **reconcilable**.
3. There were at least **seven** people who saw Jesus on His **resurrection** day.

KEY THOUGHT: Christians are renewed at conversion to a **transformed** life (Rom. 6:2b-4).

I. IN THE EARLY MORNING (LUKE 24:1-2)

- A. Certain women came to the tomb to **finish** preparing Jesus' body for **burial** (Luke 24:1).
 1. A localized **earthquake** in the area rolled away the **stone** from the tomb entrance (Matt. 28:2).
 2. The Roman guards **fainted** with fear and were **unconscious** (Matt. 28:4).
 3. The guards seemed to have **fled** after awakening because the other **disciples** do not mention them.
- B. The women entered the tomb but **found** it **empty** (Luke 24:3).
 1. While the women were in the tomb, the **angels** suddenly **appeared** (Luke 24:4; Mark 16:7, 8).
 2. The angel reminded the women of Jesus' **promises** and His **resurrection** (Luke 24:6-8).

KEY THOUGHT: The women left to inform the **eleven disciples** and other followers still in Jerusalem (Luke 24:9).

II. THE DISCIPLES VIEW THE EMPTY TOMB (JOHN 20:4-10).

- A. The disciples were skeptical when they first heard the news from the women (Luke 24:10-11).
- B. Eventually, the disciples ran to the tomb (John 20:4a).
1. John arrived first, but Peter actually entered the tomb first (John 20:4b-6).
 2. The disciples saw the linen cloths lying intact in the tomb and believed in Jesus' resurrection (Luke 24:12; John 20:6-8).
- C. Mary Magdalene returned to the empty tomb and stood outside weeping when she encountered Jesus (John 20:11-18).
- D. Jesus appeared to the other women on the road (Matt. 28:9-10) and later that day to two disciples on the Road to Emmaus and to Peter (Luke 24:13-34).

KEY THOUGHT: Jesus appeared to His disciples, with Thomas present, and they affirmed His resurrection (John 20:26-29).

OUR TRANSFORMED LIFE

1. God removed the obstacles for us to view Jesus' resurrection. How can you help remove obstacles for others to see Jesus?
 - I will invite others to have an encounter with God.
 - I will go and "build a bridge" with people in our community to Jesus.
2. The resurrection of Jesus is a symbol of a Christian's transformed life.
 - I will ask the Holy Spirit to stir up a crazy love for Jesus in my heart.
 - I will step up to the next level of being a deeply committed follower of Jesus.

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

April 4, 2010

SUNDAY: ***The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead radically altered man's perception of eternity (Luke 24:1-11)!*** All four of the gospels in the Bible record this significant event in human history (Matt. 28:1-8; Luke 24:1-11; Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-10). This lone event changed all of eternity for everyone that lived after it. Each of the writers emphasized different portions or facts of the event, so there are minor differences. The minor differences between the accounts are all easily reconcilable. There were at least seven people that saw Jesus on His resurrection day. Most of these followers of Jesus actually spoke to Him. How would physically seeing Jesus today deepen your faith of Him as your Lord and Savior? Have you seen the "hand of God" at work in your life in the last year? Write down these wonderful moments as often as you see them. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you become more perceptive of what the Lord is doing. ***May the resurrection of Jesus become a hallmark of your faith in Him!***

MONDAY: ***The resurrection is the symbol of a Christian's transformed life (Rom. 6:2b-4)!*** The Christian has died to the penalty for sin once and for all (Rom. 6:2). We are "in Christ", and when He died for our sin, we were also counted as dead (Rom. 5:6-8). We are baptized into His death and His resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4). There is a new nature that is granted to born-again believers. Each one has been transformed by his faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:24). Sin ruled the old life, and now righteousness is dominant. Ask the Lord to firmly plant the picture of Jesus' resurrection in your mind and heart. Request that you see the Lord's resurrection as a constant reminder that you are to be living a transformed life. ***May the divine victory over death that Jesus rendered in that garden tomb bring victory of temptation and sin in your life!***

TUESDAY: ***God divinely revealed Jesus' resurrection (Matt. 28: 2-4)!*** It has been commonly stated by theologians and a multitude of preachers that the stone was not rolled away to allow Jesus to get out of the tomb, but to the disciples see He was not there. A localized earthquake in the area surrounding the tomb occurred when the angel rolled the stone away from the entrance to the tomb (Matt. 28:2). The angel was obviously a messenger from God (Matt. 28:3). The response of the soldiers was absolute panic, resulting in a paralyzed trance (Matt. 28:4). The obstacles to viewing the resurrection of Jesus had been removed. The enormous, heavy rock had been rolled away and the menacing Roman guards had been neutralized. God made it possible to see Jesus resurrected! Are you removing the obstacles for others to see Jesus' resurrection? Are you committed to inviting people to have an encounter with God? Pray for the wisdom to see an opportunity to invite someone tomorrow to encounter God this weekend. ***May your reflection on the resurrection of Jesus embolden you to invite others to come encounter God!***

WEDNESDAY: ***Jesus promised an empty tomb (Luke 24:6-8)!*** The women entered the tomb with after God had removed the obstacles (Matt. 28:2-4). While the women were in the tomb the angels suddenly appeared (Luke 24:4; Mark 16:7-8). The angels' role was to clearly state that Jesus had resurrected exactly as He had promised (Luke 24:6-8). The angels made it unacceptable for any other explanation to be developed or posed. The women heard directly

from God through His angels that Jesus was not in the tomb, but had resurrected! The women were charged to tell the eleven disciples and the other followers of Christ that were still in Jerusalem (Luke 24:9). Do you believe the promises that Jesus makes in the scriptures? Are you living according to those promises? Are you investing your life in the kingdom of God in such a way that God will be able to reveal Himself to others? Pray for the conviction of the Holy Spirit to fall in your life. Ask the Lord to remove the temptations for you to live a selfish life that does not significantly contribute to the kingdom of God. ***May this be the Easter season that changes your Christian life to living like it is your last year on earth to make contributions to the kingdom of God!***

THURSDAY: ***Jesus left the grave clothes intact to help the disciples' unbelief (John 20:6-8)!***

The disciples were skeptical when they first heard the news of Jesus' resurrection from the women (Luke 24:10-11). Eventually, the disciples ran to the tomb (John 20:4a). John arrived first at the tomb, but he hesitated and did not enter. When Peter arrived at the tomb, he immediately ran on in to investigate (John 20:4b-6). The disciples saw the linen burial shroud of Jesus lying intact on the shelf in the tomb. The face cloth was folded and set aside nearby. As they drank in the scene in the tomb, the men came to believe in the resurrection of Jesus (John 20:6-8; Luke 24:12). Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus? What actions in your life this week can you point to that give evidence of this eternity-changing belief? What is a reasonable response to this divine miracle for you tomorrow? Ask the Holy Spirit to stir your heart through meditation on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **May today be the day you decide to no longer live a passive Christian life because you have been immersed in the incredible resurrection of Jesus!**

FRIDAY: ***Jesus appeared to at least seven people on the day of His resurrection (John 20:11-18; Matt. 28:9-10; Luke 24:13-14)!***

Jesus spoke with them and walked some distance with two of them. The resurrection of Jesus made Him alive to every believer. Is Jesus alive to you as a Christian? Are you seeking to live just like Him every day? Is there a desire to speak with Him through prayer and to listen to Him through the Bible every day? Ask the Holy Spirit to stir up your heart to have a *Crazy Love* for Jesus. Pray that this love would take over your life and cause you to invest significantly every day in the kingdom of God. ***May the thrill you knew at the moment of your salvation be with you throughout every day!***

SATURDAY: ***Those that have believed without seeing His resurrected body were greater than those that saw Him resurrected (John 20:26-29)!***

Thomas doubted the resurrection of Jesus because he was not present the first time Jesus visited the disciples (John 20:24-25). However, when Thomas encountered Jesus in a locked room he believed. Jesus granted the doubt-filled request of Thomas to touch His nail-scarred hands and feel the wound in His side (20:26-27). Thomas immediately proclaimed Jesus his Lord and God (John 20:28). Jesus praised and blessed those that had not seen Him in His resurrected state and believed (John 20:29). Thomas was filled with the power of confirmation when he touched Jesus. What do you need to see from Jesus before you will completely believe He is Lord and live with a *Crazy Love* for Him? How must he manifest Himself before you will step up to the level of a deeply committed follower? Ask the Lord to show you where you struggle in your faith. Pray for strength and seek to worship throughout the day. ***May the presence of the Lord be heavy upon you in the days ahead!***