

Sovereign Grace Church

“He Is Not Here!” outline

April 16, 2017

Luke 24: 1-12

As the women approached Jesus' tomb to finish the work of preparation begun just prior to the Sabbath they were not filled with anything remotely akin to hope or confidence. They, and their male counterparts, had followed Jesus in the firm expectation that He was the One prophesied about in the Scriptures....the Messiah of Israel....the Coming One who would complete the work of Redemption for Israel.

The Jewish priests and scribes had not been so gullible and had strongly suspected Jesus as just one more false Messiah, who would stir up trouble against Rome and make the Jews susceptible to further Roman tyranny. The women had genuinely believed in His claims but now were forced to reconcile those beliefs with the certainty of His death at the hands of the Romans and Jewish leaders. It was all a hoax and they had been misled. Surely they would not allow themselves to be taken in again!

But they has also loved Him and were committed to finishing the task of burial preparation. So, as they approached the tomb as the early morning sun broke the sky, their hearts were heavy with sadness and false hope. But Reality was not as these women thought! Their deep sorrow was about to be turned to an intense joy.....and their work from preparation for death...to transformation of life! They were about to be introduced to a Power so great that the human mind in its fallen and self-centered state cannot comprehend it without being shattered and remade. These women, slowly making their way along the garden path, were about to have an In-body experience of the Lights of Glory!

1. First Response: The Women were Puzzled! vv 2b-3

- **The Pull of the Natural**
- **What they found Jn 20: 6b-7**
- **Their Puzzlement**

2. Second Response: The Women Remembered. 4b-8

- **What they should have expected**
- **God's call to Remember II Tim. 1:6**

- Remembering the empty tomb
3. **Third Response: The Women Proclaimed! v. 9; Matt. 28:8**
- Fearful Joy
 - Proclaiming and Persuading II Cor. 2: 15-16
4. **The Challenge: v. 6 Lk 24: 39; I Cor 15: 35-49; Eph. 1: 20-21**
- To UNbelievers Jn 14:6; 10:10; Lk 9:23
 - To Believers Ac 9: 15-16; Jn 6: 38; Job 1: 8-9; Matt 6:33; Matt 28: 19-20

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. **Can you put yourself in the women's place on that first Easter morning? What would you have been expecting? How do you think they were planning on moving the stone? Do you think you may have been depressed or disillusioned? How is it that what we have already experienced in life sets a certain expectation as to what we expect to find later? How do you think you would react to a miracle....especially one you did not expect?**
2. **A woman's testimony was not highly regarded in that culture....yet, though the disciples doubted their testimony, they did not reject it. What might this say about their relationship? Do you think Peter and John were expecting a resurrection when they ran to the tomb? What do you think they were expecting? What does this all say about how culture conditions us to more readily believe certain interpretations of events rather than others? How can we guard against this?**
3. **What is the difference between the natural and supernatural? How might this distinction actually obscure our understanding of reality and of what we expect to occur? Given the existence of God and the spiritual world, should we consider miracles natural? Perhaps in a given case, rational?**
4. **How has Jesus' resurrection affected your life? What would be different about you had He not been resurrected? How does His resurrection affect your choices in your work? Your relationships? Your recreational activities? Your sharing the buttered portion of the popcorn?**