

The Risen Lord and Our Living Hope

The Empty Tomb (Luke 24:1–12)

Early on the first day of the week, just as the sun was rising, the women came to the tomb bringing the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away and, going inside, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they stood there, confused and troubled, two men in dazzling garments suddenly appeared beside them. In fear, they bowed to the ground. The men said,
"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"
And they remembered His words.

They returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women who shared this news. But their words seemed like nonsense to the apostles, and they did not believe them.

Still, Peter ran to the tomb. Bending down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves, and he left, marveling to himself at what had happened.

Reflection:

The first announcement of the resurrection was met with skepticism — even among Jesus' own followers.

Personal Application:

God often chooses the unlikely to bear the greatest messages. Never underestimate the testimony God gives you, even when others doubt.

The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35)

That same day, two of them were walking to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They talked about everything that had happened. As they walked and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near and walked with them, but they were kept from recognizing Him.

He asked,
"What are you discussing as you walk along and look so sad?"

One of them, named Cleopas, replied,
"Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem who doesn't know what happened there these days?"

Jesus asked,
"What things?"

They answered,
"The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people; and how the chief priests and rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who would redeem Israel. And besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened."

They continued telling Him about the women's report of the empty tomb and the vision of angels declaring Jesus was alive.

Then Jesus said,
"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them everything written about Himself in the Scriptures.

As they approached the village, Jesus acted as though He would go farther, but they urged Him,
"Stay with us, for it is evening and the day is far spent."
He went in to stay with them.

At the table, He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him — and then He vanished from their sight.

They said to one another,
"Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up that very hour, hurried back to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those with them gathered together, saying,
"The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

Then they shared their encounter on the road, and how they recognized Him when He broke the bread.

Reflection:

The risen Christ meets us where we are, often in our sadness and confusion, and opens the Scriptures to set our hearts on fire.

Personal Application:

Ask God to give you a heart that burns for His Word. Spiritual vitality comes not from chasing experiences, but from letting Jesus open your understanding of Scripture.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples (Luke 24:36–49)

While they were still talking, Jesus Himself stood among them and said,
"Peace to you."

But they were terrified and thought they were seeing a spirit [a ghost].
He said,
"Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

When He said this, He showed them His hands and feet. But while they still did not believe for joy and amazement, He asked,

"Do you have any food here?"

They gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb, and He took it and ate in their presence.

Then He said,

"These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you — that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Then He said,

"Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things."

"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high."

Reflection:

The resurrected Christ doesn't simply reveal Himself to comfort us — He commissions us to proclaim His message to the world.

Personal Application:

You are not just saved to sit; you are saved to be sent. Open your heart to His power and open your mouth to His gospel.

The Ascension (Luke 24:50–53)

Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, lifted up His hands, and blessed them. And while He was blessing them, He was taken up into heaven.

They worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. They stayed continually at the temple, praising and blessing God.

Reflection:

The last view the disciples had of Jesus was not one of death and defeat — but one of blessing, triumph, and commissioning.

Personal Application:

Live your life with your eyes fixed on heaven, your heart filled with worship, and your hands ready to serve. The story isn't over — Jesus is coming again!

Final Devotional Thought:

- The resurrection means hope is alive.
- The Scriptures come alive when Jesus opens your heart.
- The church is empowered by the Spirit to proclaim repentance and forgiveness.
- Our future is secured — Christ reigns and will return!