

Sermon: Wonder of Wonders

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Teacher: Jeff Norris

Dates: April 8/9, 2023

Luke 24:1-12 (ESV)

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.

⁵ 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?

⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,

⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

⁸ And they remembered his words,

⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

¹⁰ 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,

¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

¹² 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.

Four wonders to behold that Sunday morning:

1. The wonder of the first witnesses. (Luke 24:1-3)

"Notable women were these, and this for at least three reasons:

- With the exception of John, none of the other disciples who belonged to the group of eleven is reported to have been present at Calvary, but these women were present! They displayed rare courage.
- We are distinctly told that they were women who had followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem and had been in the habit of ministering to his needs (Luke 8:2-3). They had given evidence of hearts filled with love and sympathy.
- Being witnesses of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection appearance, they were qualified witnesses of facts of redemption on which, under God, the church depends for its faith."

- William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary, Luke*, p. 1038.

2. The wonder of their perplexity. (Luke 24:4-8)

3. The wonder of the disciples' unbelief. (Luke 24:9-11)

"What makes the Easter story so convincing is that the disciples of Jesus did not at all expect Jesus to arise from the dead."

- Hendriksen, p. 1055.

4. The wonder of the empty tomb. (Luke 24:12)

"In either case, no bandages or strips of linen would have remained in the sepulcher."

- Hendriksen, p. 1055.

John 20:6-7 (ESV)

⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there,

⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.

Romans 6:5 (ESV)

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.