

Study Guide for Easter - April 20th, 2003. Text: Luke 24:1-12 Resurrection!

Introduction: Can you recall a time when you initially did **not** believe someone's report of an incident, but later came to realize that their testimony had indeed been true? How was your perception changed?

I. The Missing Body: (Luke 24:1-3)

- A. What do you think the women expected to find that morning (see Luke 23:52-56)?
- B. According to Luke, what did they actually find? More importantly, what did they **not** find?
- C. Read Acts 2:24-32 and note how Peter uses this fact in his sermon on Pentecost.
- D. What significance do you find in the fact that Jesus was resurrected **bodily**? (I Cor. 15:35-49)

II. The Speaking Angels: (Luke 24:4-8)

- A. What question do the angels pose to the women?
- B. What declaration do the angels make to the women (and to us)?
- C. How do the women now respond to Jesus' earlier statement that he would be raised again to life?
- D. How is your faith affected by the fact that Jesus had predicted his death and resurrection?

III. The Witnessing Women: (Luke 24:9-11)

- A. List the names of the women Luke records as witnesses at the empty tomb? Why so many?
- B. Why do you think the women's testimony was not believed by the Eleven and the other disciples?
- C. What reasons do people give today for not believing the testimony that Jesus rose from the dead?
- D. How should we respond to arguments against the resurrection or if people refuse to believe us?

IV. The Wondering Disciple: (Luke 24:12)

- A. How does Peter respond to the testimony of the women?
- B. Are there aspects of the resurrection that leave you, like Peter, wondering? What are they?
- C. How have you responded to the news that Jesus rose from the dead?

The resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of the gospel. Reflect on what Paul wrote (below) to better appreciate the significance of the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead. “. . . the gospel he (God) promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God **by his resurrection from the dead**: Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom. 1:2-4)