

## Luke 24:1-12 - How Do we respond to the Resurrection?

Good morning and Happy Easter. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Let me begin this morning with a question: Have you ever lost something important—your car keys, glasses, maybe even your wallet or purse, only to realise later that it was right under your nose the whole time? I'll tell you a secret, I once spent nearly an hour looking for my glasses, and getting slowly more worked up as I did, and do you know where they were? I was wearing them! Perhaps not the best thing to admit, but there you have it.

When we lose and then find something, there's a moment of panic, of frustration, maybe even some muttering under your breath. But then - relief! Hope is restored. You can leave the house. You can see again. You don't have to go to the hassle of calling the bank to cancel your card. Well, as we celebrate Easter this morning and hear this gospel passage we see something much like this, but of course on a much larger scale.

The women come to the tomb with heavy hearts and low expectations. They are, quite understandably, expecting to find Jesus' body. After all, that's what happens when someone dies. The stone is sealed, the story is over. Except, God has other plans. Rather than finding things as they had been left a few days before, they find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. Where the body of Jesus had been, there now sit two angels, asking a question that is as beautiful as it is baffling: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

Let's imagine for a moment that we were there on that very first Easter morning—walking in the early dawn light, carrying spices, hearts heavy, heading to Jesus' tomb. We're not expecting a miracle. We're expecting a sealed tomb and a sorrowful task. Instead, we find: a rolled-away stone, an empty tomb, and a message that will change everything. And so today we ask: *What would we do if we found the empty tomb?*

The first thing we might do is to try to make sense of it. The women arrive, find the tomb empty, and are perplexed. Later, when they share the news with the disciples, what's their reaction? As Luke tells us "They did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense." (Luke 24:11) "Nonsense." That's the ancient way of saying, "That sounds absolutely bonkers." Sometimes, when God moves in ways we didn't expect, our first reaction is to dismiss it, explain it away, or chalk it up to confusion. But Easter teaches us that the resurrection doesn't invite explanation, it invites change. God's miracles don't always make sense. But they always mean something.

The second thing we might do is freeze, in fear or confusion. When the women encounter the two dazzling angels, their response is very human: They bow down in fear. Angels tend to do that to people, most of their conversations start with "Do not be afraid." (Which probably doesn't help, honestly.) And yet the angels speak gently: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" In other words: "You're looking in the wrong place." Sometimes we go back to the familiar, even if it's lifeless - while God is calling us to new life, new hope, new beginnings. If we freeze in fear, we risk missing the miracle.

Another thing we might do if we found the empty tomb is to run to share the news (even if no one believes us right away). The women don't sit around dissecting the theology of resurrection. They run to tell the others. Were they believed? Not at first. But that didn't stop them. And here's the beauty of it:

God entrusted the greatest news in history to people who didn't have all the answers - just a story to tell. That's still true today. You don't need a perfect life or eloquent words. You just need a glimpse of the empty tomb - and a willing heart to share what it means.

So... What Will We Do? What would you do if you found the empty tomb? Would you doubt? Would you freeze? Would you run and tell? Because the truth is: you have found it. The tomb is still empty, Jesus is still alive, hope is still present. So how will we live differently because of it? Easter isn't just about a moment in history. It's about what that moment means for your life:

- Your relationships.
- Your anxieties.
- Your future.

Let Easter interrupt you, let it roll away some old stone, and let it plant hope where you've grown used to despair. Because the tomb is empty—and hope is very much alive. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Amen.