

Introduction (Luke 23:33-56)

My brother-in-law, Scott Ayars, is in the process of publishing his second book, Triton Rising. Scott is a Captain for American Eagle. Even though he flies for a living, his passion is writing science fiction. His first book, *Stranded*, did fairly well, and now he is in the process of getting the sequel to it published. Those who have not read the first book will have a more difficult time appreciating his new book. They will have missed the background story and the history of all the characters. If you enjoy science fiction, let me encourage you to read *Stranded* first.

Our message this week is the sequel to last week. Without an understanding of last week's message, the message cannot be fully understood or appreciated. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 about the gospel that he had previously preached to them in order for them to be saved. The three things that Paul delivered to them that are of first importance are: 1) that Christ died for our sins, 2) that He was buried, and 3) that Jesus was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

(1 Cor 15:1-4) "Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, {2} by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. {3} For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, {4} and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,"

In our message last week we covered the first two parts, the death and burial of Christ. The betrayal by Judas had been prophesied. The spitting, mocking, and sour wine had been prophesied. The casting of lots for Jesus' clothing had been prophesied. The death by crucifixion had been prophesied in the Old Testament. The death with criminals had been prophesied. The piercing of His side was prophesied. Because of time we did not cover how the soldiers broke the legs of the two criminals to speed up their death. Jesus had already given up His Spirit and died, so the soldiers did not break His legs. This was also prophesied. Jesus' cry, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me," was a direct quote from Psalm 22, where all these details had been prophesied.

In addition to David's prophecies in Psalms 22, there were many other prophecies about Jesus' death. In Isaiah 53, we have some of those other prophecies, and they pertain more to why He suffered on the cross. He bore our griefs and sorrows. He was stricken, smitten, and afflicted because of our sins. He was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. He was chastened for our well-being. He was scourged so that we could be healed of our sins. The Lord caused all the iniquities of all of us to fall on Jesus. He took the fury, wrath, and anger for all of our sins. It was a one-time payment for the sins of the world, not just those who would believe and trust in Christ. The payment for sin and the plan of salvation was made available to all men. Jesus paid for all of this while on the cross, and when He was about to give up His Spirit, He said it is finished. The word teleo has several meanings. It means the goal has been reached. As an accounting word, it means that it has been paid in full. The payment for our sins was made in full at the cross.

(Is 53:4-6) "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. {5} But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. {6} All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him."

Last week we also looked at the prophecy in Psalm 16 that God was not going to abandon Jesus soul in Sheol. Sheol is the place of the dead. When Peter preached the message at Pentecost, he quotes Psalm 16, but since it is written in Greek, the translated word is Hades. Sheol and Hades are the place of the dead. In the place of the dead, there were two places with a chasm between them. The thief on the cross asked Jesus to remember him in His kingdom. Jesus told him that this very day he would be with Him in paradise. Paradise was one of the two places in Sheol or Hades. Paradise was where Lazarus and Abraham were in the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. The rich man was in the other part of Hades. Once the perfect payment for sin was made on the cross, sinful man could now be with the Father in heaven. There was no longer a need for this place called paradise. Jesus went to Hades, but He did not go into the eternal fiery place of damnation called hell. People will not be cast into that hell until after the judgment at the great white throne, which is described in Revelation 20. After the judgment, death and Hades will be thrown into this lake of fire we know as hell.

(Ps 16:10) "For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay."

(Acts 2:27) "BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY."

Jesus spoke on numerous occasions with His disciples about His death and resurrection. He said He would be handed over to the Gentiles, mocked, mistreated, and spit upon. He said that after being scourged, they would kill Him. He also told them that on the third day He would rise again. They heard but they did not hear and understand. It was hidden from them and they did not comprehend the things that He was saying to them.

(Luke 18:31-34) "Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. {32} "For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, {33} and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again." {34} But the disciples understood none of these things, and the meaning of this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said."

This week, in Part 2, we will look at the third part of the gospel message, the resurrection of Christ on the third day. **Just as the death and burial was prophesied, the resurrection of Jesus on the third day was also prophesied.** In fact, the religious rulers knew what He had claimed. On the Sabbath, when they should have been resting, they went to Pilate and asked him to make the grave secure. They said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'after three days I am to rise again.'"

(Matt 27:62-63) "Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, {63} and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.'"

The religious rulers did not want someone stealing Jesus' body and claiming that Jesus had risen from the dead. They said that this deception would be worse than the first.

(Matt 27:64) “Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first.”

Therefore, Pilate gave them permission to make the grave site as secure as possible. And, **the religious rulers and guards made the grave secure**. They verified the body was in the tomb. They rolled the stone in place, and put a seal on it. That way, they would know if the stone had been tampered with. Then, they had some of the Roman guards stationed there to keep it secure. If anything happened to the body, the guards would be put to death. Their lives were at stake, so they had plenty of incentive to keep the grave secure.

(Matt 27:65-66) “Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." {66} And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.”

All of these things are the backdrop to our message today. In our passage today, we will look at the resurrection of Jesus. We will look at three responses to the gospel. First, we have the response of the ladies. Second, we have the response of the apostles. Third, we have the response of Peter. Let’s read our passage today.

Three Responses To The Gospel

1. The Ladies’ Response
2. The Apostles’ Response
3. Peter’s Response

(Luke 24:1-12) “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. {2} And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, {3} but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. {4} While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; {5} and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? {6} "He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, {7} saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." {8} And they remembered His words, {9} and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. {10} Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. {11} But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. {12} But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.”

1. The Ladies’ Response

As we look at the ladies’ response, I would like to go back to Luke 23 for a minute. The women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. Jesus started His trek to Jerusalem in Luke 13. These women have been with Jesus for several weeks, going from town to town as He has proclaimed the gospel, cast out demons, and healed the sick. They were there for His crucifixion, and they followed Joseph and Nicodemus to His burial site.

After they saw where He was buried, they returned to where they were staying in Jerusalem and prepared spices and perfumes to bring to the grave on Sunday. Luke said that they rested on the Sabbath, according to the commandment.

(Luke 23:55-56) “Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. {56} Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.”

It is now Sunday and the ladies are up at the crack of dawn and go to the tomb with their spices. In verse ten, Luke gives us the names of a few of these women. They were Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James, and some other women. They are expecting to find the body, and that is why they brought the spices to put in the tomb.

(Luke 24:1, 10) “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared... {10} Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.”

When they arrived, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, and when they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

(Luke 24:2-3) “And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, {3} but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.”

I want to continue with Matthew’s account. He said that a severe earthquake had occurred, and an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. Matthew said his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. Notice also that Matthew describes the guards as shaking for fear because of the angel, and they became like dead men. The guards had never left their post. They were still there watching over the tomb to make sure that nobody would steal the body.

(Matt 28:1-4) “Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. {2} And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. {3} And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. {4} The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.”

So, when the ladies get to the tomb, the stone is already rolled away. It appears that the guards are still there, but are in a state of shock at what has happened. Luke says there are two men standing near in dazzling clothing. We do not know if one of these is the angel that Matthew describes or if these are two different angels. The angel described in Matthew was dressed in white and his appearance was like lightning. These two angels are dressed in dazzling clothes, so my opinion is that these are two different angels. **The women were perplexed as to what could have happened to Jesus’ body.** Suddenly, two men stood near them in dazzling clothes. Then, **the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.** Then, the two men said to them, “why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while he was still in Galilee. When the men said this to them, they remembered Jesus’ words. They had an aha moment and finally understood what Jesus had been telling them.

(Luke 24:4-8) “While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; {5} and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? {6} “He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, {7} saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” {8} And they remembered His words,”

The women did two things. **The women believed what was told to them and returned from the tomb.** In Matthew’s account, we find that they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy. And as they were running to the disciples, Jesus met them and greeted them. They took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Jesus told them not to be afraid, and to give the brethren a message to go to Galilee, and He will see them there.

(Matt 28:8-10) “And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. {9} And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. {10} Then Jesus *said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

Second, the women reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. The women had seen more than an empty tomb. They had witnessed more than angels. They had met with the Lord, grabbed His feet, and worshiped Him. He gave them a message and told them to go tell it to His brethren. So, they went and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

(Luke 24:9) “and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.”

2. The Apostles’ Response

The second response that Luke gives is the Apostles’ response. **The words of the women appeared as nonsense to the apostles and they would not believe them.** They knew the Scriptures and the prophecies. They had heard Jesus tell them what was going to happen. And, now the ladies tell them, and they still did not believe them.

(Luke 24:11) “But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them.”

In Mark, we are told that after Jesus had risen on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went to His followers and found them mourning and weeping. When she reported that she had seen Jesus, they refused to believe her.

(Mark 16:9-11) “Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. {10} She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. {11} When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.”

I want to take a look at another response that was similar to the apostles. We find it in Acts 26 when Paul appeared before King Agrippa. After sharing his testimony, Paul began to share how the Prophets and Moses had prophesied about what was going to take place, that Christ was to suffer,

and by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be proclaimed. Notice King Agrippa's response to Paul. "Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad." **The resurrection of the dead appeared as nonsense to King Agrippa also.** His response was no different than the apostles.

(Acts 26:22-24) "So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; {23} that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles." {24} While Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus *said in a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad."

Paul answered King Agrippa saying he was not out of his mind, but he was uttering words of sober truth. I like what Paul says next. "I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. **The crucifixion, burial, and resurrection was witnessed by a large number of people.** The darkness and the earthquake were historically recorded. Everything was done out in the open and was confirmed.

(Acts 26:25-26) "But Paul *said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth. {26} For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner."

In fact, when Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he stated that Christ had appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that, Jesus appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time. When Paul wrote that letter, most of the five hundred brethren were still alive. Christ's resurrection was not done in a corner. It was witnessed by hundreds of people. Having said that, it still appeared as nonsense to the apostles when Mary shared it with them. It appeared as nonsense to King Agrippa when Paul shared it with him.

(1 Cor 15:4-7) "and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, {5} and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. {6} After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; {7} then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

Paul continued his discourse with King Agrippa by asking if he believed in the Prophets. The prophets had prophesied that Jesus would be raised from the dead. Paul answered his own question for King Agrippa saying, "I know that you do." Notice Agrippa's response. "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." Paul's reply shows the heart of God for all men. **God does not want any to perish, but for all to be saved.** He said, "I wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am except for these chains.

(Acts 26:27-29) "King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do." {28} Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." {29} And Paul said, "I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

3. Peter's Response

Last we have the response of Peter. When Peter heard the testimony of the women, he got up and ran to the tomb. **Peter wanted to see for himself.** He wanted to verify what he had just heard. After arriving at the tomb, he stooped and looked inside. The only thing that he saw were the linen wrappings. **After seeing the evidence, Peter believed.** He went away to his home, marveling at what had happened. The evidence confirmed the report that he had heard from the ladies.

(Luke 24:12) "But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened."

Conclusion

We see three responses this morning. We have the responses of the ladies. We have the responses of the apostles, and we have the response by Peter. Let's take another look at those responses.

First, I want to look at the response of the apostles. It appeared to them as nonsense and they would not believe the ladies. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them. The Spirit of God had not yet opened up their minds to understand. It was still nonsense to them.

(Luke 24:11) "But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them."

(1 Cor 2:14) "But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."

If this message this morning is nonsense to you, you are not alone. That was where the apostles were in their faith. These are the men that eventually turned the world upside down. These are the men who God used mightily to proclaim the gospel and to perform many signs and wonders. But, at this point in time, the gospel was nonsense to them. Something happened to them. The Holy Spirit opened up their hearts and minds and they got it. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "for to us God revealed them through the Spirit." This morning, if this message does not make sense to you, would you allow us to pray for you. We simply want to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the message of the gospel to you.

(1 Cor 2:10) "For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God."

The second response was that of Peter. It first appeared to him as nonsense, but after investigating it further he went away marveling at what had happened. He was no longer in disbelief. He now believed that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead, and he went away marveling. Something happened to Peter at the tomb. The Holy Spirit opened up his heart and it no longer was nonsense to him.

(Luke 24:12) "But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened."

If the message of the gospel is nonsense to you, but you are still searching like Peter, we want to pray for you. We want to pray that God will reveal Himself to you. We want to pray that you will get the same revelation that Peter got at the tomb. It may not be this morning. It may not be tomorrow. But, God promises that if you seek Him, He will let you find Him. If you forsake Him, He will forsake you. God does not force Himself on anyone. If you seek Him like Peter, you will find Him. If you are still searching, we want to pray in accordance to God's word, that He reveals Himself to you as you continue searching.

(2 Chron 15:2b) "...And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."

Finally, we see the third response, the response of the women. When they were told that the Lord had risen from the dead, they remembered His words, returned to the twelve, and began reporting or proclaiming the gospel to the apostles and other brethren. Their actions reveal that they believed the message. Luke says that they reported these things to the eleven and to all the rest. The word for preach the gospel is euaggelizo. Eu means good and aggelio means message. The gospel means the good message or good news. The word that Luke uses here is apaggello, which means to proclaim the message. The emphasis is on the message. These women began sharing the message of the gospel. They remembered that this was the same message that the Lord had proclaimed to them. They believed the message and began proclaiming it.

(Luke 24:6-9) "He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, {7} saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." {8} And they remembered His words, {9} and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest."

The Scriptures tell us that believing is not enough. We must believe and we must receive. John said, "as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." We must believe and we must also receive.

(John 1:12) "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,"

If you have never received Christ, and the message this morning has made sense to you, you understand and you believe in your heart, I want to encourage you to receive Christ. Just as Paul encouraged King Agrippa to receive Christ, I want to encourage you to believe the Prophets. I want to encourage you to believe the historical documentation of His resurrection.

In Romans 10, Paul shared how to become like him except for the chains. He wrote that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Let me encourage you to confess Jesus as your Lord this morning. Just simply pray with me, "Lord, I do believe that You died for my sins. I believe that on the third day You were raised from the dead. This morning I confess you as my Lord and Savior. Please come into my life and fill me with Your Spirit. Thank You Lord Jesus.

(Rom 10:9-10) "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; {10} for with the heart a person believes,

resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

If you have believed and received this morning, I want to encourage you to do what the ladies did. They returned to their loved ones and began proclaiming the good news. I want to pray that you leave here with a conviction and a boldness to proclaim the gospel to your friends and family.

Let's pray.

Introduction (Luke 24:1-12, 1 Cor 15:1-4, Ps 22, Isa 53:4-6, Ps 16:10, Acts 2:27, Luke 18:31-34, Matt 27:62-66)

- Jesus spoke on numerous occasions with His disciples about His death and _____.
- Just as the death and burial was _____, the resurrection of Jesus on the third day was also _____.
- The religious rulers and guards made the grave _____.

1. The Ladies' Response (Luke 23:55-56, Luke 24:1-9, 10, Matt 28:1-4)

- The women were _____ as to what could have happened to Jesus' body.
- The women were _____ and bowed their faces to the ground.
- The women _____ what was told to them and returned from the tomb.
- The women _____ all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

2. The Apostles' Response (Luke 24:11, Mark 16:9-11)

- The words of the women appeared as _____ to the apostles, and they would not _____ them.
- The resurrection of the dead appeared as _____ to King Agrippa also. (Acts 26:22-24)
- The crucifixion, burial, and resurrection was _____ by a large number of people. (Acts 26:25-26, 1 Cor 15:4-7)
- God does not want any to perish, but for all to be _____. (Acts 26:27-29, 2 Pet 3:9)

3. Peter's Response

- Peter wanted to _____ for himself. (Luke 24:12)
- After seeing the evidence, Peter _____.

Conclusion (1 Cor 2:10, 2:14, 2 Chron 15:2b, Rom 10:9-10)

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