

LIFE CAN NEVER BE THE SAME!

Luke 24: 1-12 – Pastor Richard P. Carlson—Drive-in Church. April 12, 2020
Resurrection Sunday Morning—10:30 AM During 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic

The Day Jesus rose from the dead will always be remembered through eternity as the greatest day in history. Our future was changed in one glorious moment. The future of all people anxiously searching for hope was forever altered when Life triumphed Resurrection Sunday morning. The message of freedom rang in the sky, spreading its fire. In this pandemic, when nothing is as you want it to be, look up to heaven. Our freedom was paid for at Calvary; the chain of sin has been broken. Jesus granted us victory that Sunday morning. Joy in this life, utterly free, more than the world gives, beyond what we see. For each of us and for all nations, it's time to rise; our only hope is Jesus Christ. Alleluia, Christ is risen; Jesus is alive. Life can never be the same. Life will never be the same. Celebrate—Christ is alive.

When Jesus died on Calvary's cross to atone for our sins, five miracles occurred miracles that are often overlooked. (1) **Luke 23: 44** tells us, "It was now about the sixth hour—**noon**, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour—**3 PM**, while the sun's light failed." That's three hours of darkness in the middle of the day. (2) **Mark 15: 38** tells us the temple curtain, the veil was rent in two, from the top to the bottom. The veil was between 4-9 inches thick at minimum. The Jewish Mishnah states the length of the veil was 60 feet by 30 feet, and weighed around 4 tons. 300 priests were needed to carry the veil. The Jewish historian Josephus reports that horses tied to each side could not pull it apart. That veil barred and exempted everyone but the High Priest from the presence of God, once a year. Yet, when the veil was rent in two when Jesus died on the cross, access to God was made available to all who come to the Father through Jesus." (3) **Matthew 27: 51** tells us of a miraculous earthquake happening right when Jesus died. "The earth shook, and the rocks were split." (4) **Matthew 27: 52** Tombs were opened with the stones rolled away. (5) **Matthew 27: 52-53** "Many saints who had died, fallen asleep, were raised to life. Coming out of the tombs, after Jesus' resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many."

Those five miracles were huge, but compared with the miracle of miracles, our Redeemer, Jesus rising from the dead, those miracles were small. Our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who died to redeem us, rose bodily from the grave Sunday morning. History will never be the same. Today the Lord has moved me to tell you all, "Since Christ's resurrection, we can never go back to business as usual. Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus during this pandemic makes me pray, "Lord, don't ever let us go back to business as usual, when we get back to our gathered assembly in our sanctuary. Since Jesus rose from dead Resurrection Morning, there are five changes in life as we all know it, that have been forever transformed. They

can never be the same. For us as believers, life can never go on the same way, as if Jesus never rose from the dead. *What are these five changes in life, that are transformed by Christ's resurrection?*

THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK CAN NEVER BE THE SAME. (I.) Notice our text in Luke 24: 1-3. “But on *the first day of the week*, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.” In John 20: 1-3 we read, “Now on *the first day of the week*, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So, she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them. “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him. So, Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb.” In Matthew 28: 1, we read, “Now after *the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week*, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.” And in Mark 16: 2, we read, “And very early, on *the first day of the week*, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.”

For us as Christians, Sunday can never be the same. It is now *the first day of the week* on which we forever commemorate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sunday can never be the same. Never can it be just another day or the beginning of another awful week. These faithful women who had believed in Jesus were going about a grim task on *the first day of the week*. They were prepared to carry out the last act of love for their dead Master. They were going to thoroughly embalm Him and anoint His body with their spices and perfumes. To their shock and surprise, they found the stone rolled away from the opening of the tomb that Joseph of Arimathea had given for Jesus' body to be buried in. He was a secret disciple of Jesus. Going into the inside of the tomb, these brave women further discovered that the body of Jesus was missing. Matthew 28: 1-4 declares that an angel from heaven descended and rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. The tomb was empty. Jesus had already passed unseen out of the grave clothes and the tomb. The angel came to roll away the stone to show the world that the Lord Jesus was alive, and the tomb was empty. There were no eyewitnesses to see the resurrection occur. Many saw the crucifixion, and many saw the ascension later, but only God the Father saw the moment when Jesus sat up, and He stepped out into the dew of a Jerusalem April spring morning on *the first day of the week*.

For every believer, the first day of the week has become the Son's day, the day of resurrection, the day when the sun came up to shine on the resurrected Lord and to shine on all those who believe in Him. The Son came up from the grave, never to die again. John, who won the footrace to the tomb, was the first to call Sunday the Lord's Day while he was exiled on the isle of Patmos. He wrote, “I was in the

Spirit on the Lord's Day." We all now know which day that was—it was the day of Christ's resurrection. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 16: 2 tells us that every Lord's day, **on the first day of the week**, each of us should put aside something from what we have earned that week to use to give as our tithes and offerings to God. The amount we each are to give is a proportionate amount depending on how much we have earned. A collection of these tithes and offerings is part of the new purpose for this **first day of the week**. This day can never be the same for us.

Acts 20: 7 speaks of this first day being the day when God's people gathered together to break bread. We break bread on the first day of the week on the first week of the month and then on a few extra special days like Christmas Eve and Good Friday. We learn from Acts 20: 7 that this first day was a day of preaching, for Paul preached on this first day until midnight. Since resurrection Sunday, the first day of the week can never be the same as other days. This is the day not only for preaching the Word, but for praising the Lord, testifying. Sunday evening services are out of vogue today. Yet Hebrews 10: 25 is clear, "Don't neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." I will never apologize for urging us to always have a Sunday evening service, as we have with Pastor Larry most often preaching, just as Paul preached Sunday evening in Troas. (Acts 20: 5-7) Don't let Sunday be just another day for you, business as usual? 1000 times No! God forbid it! Christ arose. Sunday can never be the same. Secondly,

THE ANSWERS TO OUR ANXIOUS QUESTIONS CAN NEVER BE THE SAME, NO LONGER FOUND IN A PLACE, BUT IN A PERSON. (II.) Every age is filled with fear and perplexity, folk terrified and bowing their faces to the ground. Every age is filled with questions. This pandemic is more terrifying than any time in most of our lives. Turn with me to our text in Luke 24: 4-6a. "While the women were perplexed about the empty tomb, behold, two angels, men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 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? He is not here, but He has risen." Old Testament thinking was almost always centered in a place, in Jerusalem, in the temple, in the Holy of Holies. As these women stood terrified in that empty tomb, they went in, v. 2. Their perplexity was that this tomb was empty. It had lost its significance for them because Jesus' body was gone. The two men, angels knew the questions that were terrifying the women, so they verbalized the question for them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead?" Wow! This resurrection day forever has shifted the answers to our questions from place to the person of Jesus. The angels continued by saying in effect, "Your hopes and dreams are not to be found in a place, and not in this place-not in this tomb. Jesus is not here, v. 5 but has risen." Thousands of Christian apologists put their focus on the historical fact of the empty tomb. I praise the Lord that His tomb is empty. I have been there with Jinny to see it is empty. But don't

stop there. The answers to all our questions aren't in that empty tomb. Jesus is alive, alive, alive forevermore. Our answers are found in the risen Lord who abandoned that tomb and opened up a new and living way for us to know Him—a Person, personally. Glory! 3rdly,

THE REMEMBRANCES OF JESUS' WORDS CAN NEVER BE THE SAME. (III.) Notice verses 6b- 8. "Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise. And they remembered His words." Somehow, the words of Jesus had dissolved and passed out of the minds of the women and the disciples. They had even forgotten His many prophecies about rising from the dead. Verse 8 tells us that as the angel spoke to the women, there came to their minds a flood of memory. This flood of memory and remembering was far more now than a recalling of Jesus' words, His utterances. These memories now were mixed with reality. Since Christ arose, the words of Jesus are no longer just a recalling His words and sentences. They were words that came alive because Jesus was alive. It hit the women. He said He would rise again. Could it be true? Could memory and reality be the same? Memory was starting to mix now with reality. When we take the Lord's Supper, Jesus left us a command to take real unleavened bread and real fruit from the vine, and to mix memory with reality until He comes. In the Lord's Supper, memory is forever swallowed up in victorious reality. The symbols in heaven, the bread and the cup, in heaven will surrender their importance to being face to face with Jesus. 4thly,

THE TESTIMONY OF BELIEVING WOMEN CAN NEVER BE THE SAME. (IV.) Notice verses 9-11. "And returning, from the tomb, they (the women) told all these things to the eleven (disciples) and to all the rest. 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, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them." Paul wrote in Galatians 3: 28, 29, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." You say, "Didn't Paul speak of a hierarchy among men and women in the family and in the church? He wrote in I Cor. 11: 3, "But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man and the man is the head of woman, and God is the head of Christ." Yes, but Paul never spoke of a hierarchy of position in Christ. The ground is always level at the foot of the cross of Christ and at the mention of Christ's resurrection. As men and women before God, we are one in position as are Jews and Gentiles, slaves and freemen. In our family and in God's church, God does have a hierarchy of leadership. But notice what Jesus did at the resurrection. The Father sent two angels not to His apostles, His disciples, doubting and unbelieving men then, but the Father sent two angels to believing women. The disciples thought these

believing women were out of their minds. Why did God do this? I do not know all the motivation of Almighty God. God wanted the word out about His Son's resurrection—immediately, quickly. God the Father knew who would spread the good news, who would gossip His Gospel—this one kind of gossip Jesus loves. The words of the believing women on resurrection day can no longer be disputed. God stamped the testimony of these women forever as the first evangelists to tell the truth of the resurrection. Hear me, beloved, the testimony of believing women can never be the same since Resurrection Sunday. Fifthly and lastly,

THE EVIDENCE WE ONCE DOUBTED CAN NEVER BE THE SAME. (V.)

Notice verse 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.” Luke only tells us about Peter running to the tomb. John however in John 20: 4 tells us that John was a fast runner and not Peter, because John tells us he outran Peter to the empty tomb on resurrection morning. John stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. When Peter finally arrived at the tomb, he barged right on inside the empty tomb—John 20: 5-7. There he beheld the linen wrappings lying there and the face cloth which had been wrapped around Jesus head. The face cloth was rolled up in a place by itself. Peter's going in, led John to follow him into the empty tomb. What both men saw together ended all their doubts about the women's testimony. There were the undisturbed windings and wrappings lying flat. It was one of the most astounding sights a person could ever witness. Just as Jesus in His resurrection body could enter a locked room with the doors being shut, so he could pass through the linen wrappings without unwinding them. Yet, even this first-hand evidence that Peter stared at, was not all the evidence he needed, but it had Peter marveling. Jesus left his graveclothes just as He laid in them, only He came out of them without tearing them off. Then Jesus began appearing—to Peter, Mary Magdalene—I Cor. 15: 3-8.

Peter could never be the same. The first day of the week was forever carved and etched into his mind. Now it was the Lord's Day. All his questions were no longer to be found in a place, but in a person—the Risen Christ. No longer were Jesus' words fuzzy or forgotten in his thinking. No longer would Peter put down the testimony of the faithful women who followed Jesus. He saw the evidence of the empty tomb and Jesus appeared to him alone. Paul adds, “The Risen Lord--He appeared to me.” Alleluia, Christ is risen! Life can never be the same. All of Jesus' words are true. He said He would come again at a time when the love of many would grow cold, at a time when the world would turn from summer to fall to winter spiritually. Beloved, it is like the saying, it may be Friday, but Sunday's coming. It may be winter spiritually in the world, but Spring can't be far behind. Jesus is alive and He's soon to return. Are you ready for the King to return? Jesus is alive and life can never be the same. Eternity will never stop proclaiming the glory that He's alive; He's alive; He's alive, Alleluia, Christ is risen! He's alive!