

Heaven and Earth Overlap – Luke 24:1-12, 36-49

Now on the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain *other women* with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying, ‘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 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary *the mother* of James, and the other *women* with them, who told these things to the apostles. ¹¹ And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

³⁶ Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” ³⁷ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. ³⁸ And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” ⁴² So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. ⁴³ And He took *it* and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

⁴⁶ Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Open: When you think of the resurrection of Jesus, what’s the first thing that comes to your mind?

→What words in the passage need to be explained for you?

1. When does this story take place? (v. 1)
2. Write down the various people who are involved in this story.
3. Write down the different places mentioned in the story.
4. Write down the verse numbers where someone is speaking (look for “quotation marks”). Who is speaking and who is being spoken to?
5. What do the two men in v. 4 look like? How do the women respond to them? (v. 5)
6. When the women tell the eleven, how do the eleven respond? (vv. 11-12)
7. How do the eleven respond when Jesus stands in their midst? (v. 37)
8. What does Jesus do to convince them? (vv. 40-43)
9. What has been fulfilled? (v. 44-46) What must now be preached? (v. 47)
10. What are the disciples to do next? (vv. 48-49)

Apply

- Is there anything you find unbelievable about the resurrection?
- In v. 45, Jesus “opened their understanding” about the Old Testament. Can you think of an Old Testament passage that points us to Jesus?
- In what ways are you a “witness” (see v. 48) of the same things as the eleven?

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime

Martin Luther

Jesus’s resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven.

N.T. Wright