

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 15 (April 5-11, 2015)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ separates Christianity from all other religions. Rejoice in the fact that we serve a risen Savior as we study from Luke's gospel.

**Sunday**, April 5 (read Luke 24:1-8)

*"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!" (Luke 24:5b-6a)*

The earthly human body of our Lord has been transformed into a new Heavenly body, just as yours will be at the **rapture** of the Church. All the obstacles that can separate you from the risen Lord have been rolled away, just like the heavy stone (v. 1-3). In today's text, two angels appear to the women who have gotten up early to go and anoint Jesus' body (v. 4). The question asked in the printed verse above is one that you must answer for yourself (v. 5). You will not find Jesus among the dead! Even a church can die spiritually if the members love the building and the activities more than they love the Lord. "He is not here; He has risen!" You will find the risen Lord in the words He has spoken (v. 7-8). Get up early and seek Him! Happy Easter!

**Monday**, April 6 (read Luke 24:9-12)

*But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. (Luke 24:11)*

The Bible lists the women who are committed enough to Jesus to get up early and walk to the tomb (v. 10). Naturally, they return to Jerusalem to report their experience to His disciples (v. 9). These men have not yet been filled with the Spirit, so the testimony of the women, as well as the words of Jesus (v. 7-8), seem unbelievable (v. 11). Don't be too critical of them, however, because "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). Peter, at least has enough curiosity to run to the tomb to verify the women's story. John gives more details than Luke since he also accompanies Peter to the tomb (John 20:3-9). If you understand from Scripture that these events **had to** take place, you are way ahead of these two disciples standing at the tomb (John 20:9).

**Tuesday**, April 7 (read Luke 24:13-17)

*They stood still, their faces downcast. (Luke 24:17b)*

I cannot imagine how sad I would be if I thought that Jesus was dead. After all, the entire hope of the gospel is centered in the **resurrection** of our Lord. On the afternoon of that first Easter, we meet two disciples taking a lonely walk to Emmaus, about seven miles away from Jerusalem (v. 13). They are discussing the events of the weekend when Jesus comes alongside them (v. 14-15). He could have been such a comfort to them, but their lack of faith in what He has taught keeps them from recognizing Him. Even though the risen Lord is right beside them, "They (stand) still, their faces downcast" (v. 17b). Can you relate to them? Have you ever been so discouraged that you could not feel the presence of Jesus? If so, I hope you will be encouraged by the rest of this week's devotions.

**Wednesday**, April 8 (read Luke 24:18-24)

*“ . . . but we had hoped that He was the One who was going to redeem Israel.” (Luke 24:21)*

Have you ever been guilty of thinking that Jesus does not know what is going on in your life (v. 18)? Notice the verbs are all past tense, indicating that these men have no hope for the future (“**was** a prophet, **handed** Him over, **crucified** Him,” and worst of all, “we **had hoped** that He **was** the One”). If all your dreams and hopes are in the past, you are just as depressed as these two disciples. These men have heard from eyewitnesses that His body is not in the tomb, but they don’t have enough faith to believe them (v. 22-24). I certainly hope that your faith is deeper than that! The story is true! He is alive! We serve a risen Savior! Because He lives, you will live also (see John 14:19)!

**Thursday**, April 9 (read Luke 24:25-27)

*He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!” (Luke 24:25)*

The devotions for the past few weeks have come from Isaiah, one of the **prophets** referenced in the printed verse above (v. 25). You are not wise if you say, “I believe the **New Testament**, but I can not trust the books written prior to the birth of Jesus.” If these men had only studied Isaiah 52 & 53, as you did last week, they would have known that “the Christ (had) to suffer these things and then enter His glory.” The entire Bible is about Jesus Christ! He appears in prophecy in Genesis 3 and continues through all the books, including Malachi. I pray that you are learning to read the Bible with today and tomorrow in mind, as well as yesterday. God’s Word is totally accurate, so you can begin early in the Old Testament and continue through the book of Revelation and know for sure that it is all about Jesus!

**Friday**, April 10 (read Luke 24:28-32)

*But they urged Him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So He went in to stay with them. (Luke 24:29)*

Jesus walks beside us daily, just like He did with the Emmaus disciples; however, like them, we don’t always recognize Him or acknowledge His presence. Being the ultimate gentleman, He will not enter the home of these disciples or **our** home without an invitation (v. 28-29). Once inside, He breaks the bread and passes it to them (v. 30), just as He had done at the Last Supper. It is at this point that their eyes are opened so that they can recognize Him (v. 31). Personally, I believe that they noticed His nail-scarred hands for the first time as He passed the bread. At any rate, they acknowledge that their hearts were set on fire by the application of God’s Word along the road (v. 32). My prayer is that your hearts will also burn at the teaching of the Scriptures.

**Saturday** April 11 (read Luke 24:33-35)

*They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” (Luke 24: 33-34)*

I long to hear you say those three vital words recorded in the verse above: “It is true!” If the story of the resurrection is true, what do you have to worry about? If it is not true, is there any hope for our fallen world? I get accused of being a “black or white” person on the issues, with no grey areas in between, but I wonder aloud, “Do you really believe that Christ has risen from the dead?” If so, shouldn’t **He** be the topic of most of your conversations and not **our church, preacher** or **music preference**? When do **you** recognize the risen Lord in your worship service? Is it during the singing, the offering, the preaching, or the breaking of the bread? Come to church expecting to see Him and you’ll never go home disappointed (see Luke 8:40)!