

Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Luke 24:1-8 | Resurrection Sunday 2026
Sunday April 5, 2026



WELCOME:

- Bibles in the back—our gift to you.
- Bible is our middle name!
- Our goal is for you to experience God through His Word, verse by verse, and then share Jesus, the Son of God, day by day.
- We are a teaching church—meaning...
- Itineary

PRAY: (Hymn—Only a Holy God)

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven? Who else could make every king bow down? Who else can whisper, and darkness trembles?

Only a holy God. Come and behold Him, the One and Only. Cry out and sing!

What other beauty demands such praises? What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?

Only a holy God. Come and behold Him, the One and Only. Cry out and sing!

What other glory consumes like fire? What other power can raise the dead? What other name remains undefeated?

Only a holy God. Come and behold Him, the One and Only. Cry out and sing!

Who else could rescue me from my failing? Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?

Only a holy God. Come and behold Him, the One and Only. Cry out and sing!

Amen!

MUSIC:

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 24:1—On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.

Luke 24:2—They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

Luke 24:3—They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Luke 24:4—While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes.

Luke 24:5—So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” asked the men.

Luke 24:6—“He is not here, but he has risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee,

Luke 24:7—saying, ‘It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?’”

Luke 24:8—And they remembered his words.

Statement of Faith:

The Holy Scriptures are the only sufficient, certain, and infallible standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. Therefore, the Holy Scriptures are absolutely necessary, because God’s former ways of revealing His will to His people have now ceased.

EXEGESIS:

Before we get the resurrection narrative, let me back up a bit. *Context.*

The previous 24 hours of Jesus’ life have been filled with unforgettable events:

1. Betrayal: not only did Judas Iscariot betray Jesus, but the other eleven disciples all abandoned Him as well.

Even the lead Disciple, Peter, denied knowing Jesus three times!

Not only did Jesus' Disciples abandon Him, but also His Father in Heaven will abandon Him as Jesus experienced the Father's justice on the cross for our cosmic crimes / sins.

UNFAIRLY TRIED IN COURT

2. Kangaroo Court: If you thought the trials of Watergate or the OJ Simpson case were a joke, the trial of Jesus Christ is the worst example of a legal system in all of human history.

Jesus was found guilty of no crimes, slandered by false witnesses, ^{yet} and charged with the death penalty.

In addition to the death penalty, Jesus was unnecessarily tortured.

3. Torture: Although completely innocent, Jesus was beaten with a leather whip (flogging/scourging) so badly that He was unrecognizable as a human being.


4. Crucified: Jesus was nailed to a Roman cross for crimes He never committed—but rather for our cosmic crimes called sin.

5. God's Wrath/Justice: For three hours, God the Father unleashed His holy divine justice on our sin on His own Son.

6. Died and was buried.

So that's the overview of the last 24 hours of Jesus life.

Let's pick up the story as Jesus begins to pay the debt for our sin.

 **Luke 23:44**— *It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three, because the sun's light failed.*

Jesus had been hanging on the cross for about three hours—the crucifixion started around 9am on Friday morning.

Explain Crucifixion.

 **Luke 23:44**— *because the sun's light failed.*

From 12pm-3pm, the Father covered Israel with darkness. Why?

Darkness in the OT represents sadness (Amos 8:9–10) and divine judgment (Ex. 10:21–23).

Because for the next three hours, the Son of God would endure the punishment of every Believer.

And nobody could see that happen.

The wrath of God upon the sinless Son of God was a spiritual transaction that only God the Father and God the Son were privy to.

No human being could witness or comprehend the divine justice that took place upon the Son of God.

However, humans do see the result...

 **Luke 23:45**— *The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle.*

In the Temple, there was a special room called the “Holy of Holies/Most Holy Place.”

It's where the High Priest would go in that room only once per year to make a sacrifice for sins.

There was a curtain that separated that room from the others.

The other Gospels say that this curtain was split from "top to bottom."

The imagery is this: God the Father is the one who stoops down from Heaven and rips that curtain in two. — *Earthquake*

Why? Because His perfectly innocent Son willingly chose to pay the final price for our sins.

From that moment on—once our sins have been paid for and justice has been served—the Throneroom of God is now available to anyone who believes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

No longer is a curtain needed to separate the Father from His children.

No longer is a human priest a mediator to God the Father—the Son has become the Mediator because Jesus has done the work that we could not!

Luke 23:46— *And Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.", Saying this, he breathed his last.*

Notice that no one took Jesus' life—The Romans did not, the Jews did not, nor the cross took Jesus' life—Jesus gave His life willingly and freely as an offering.

Jesus chose when to die.

The cross and the people involved were simply the Father's ordained means to accomplish His plans.

Even in death, Jesus remains in control.

Secondly, notice that Jesus trusts His Father in death.

Jesus perfectly obeyed and trusted the Father with every breath of His life. WOM

Luke 23:47— *When the centurion saw what happened, he began to glorify God, saying, "This man really was righteous!"*

A centurion is a Roman soldier who was in charge of 100 men.

Since he's a Roman, he probably believes in many gods, with the Emperor of Rome being one of them.

Well, he sees all this happen:

- How the Jewish crowd demanded that Pilate crucify Jesus.
- How Pilate caved into the pressure.
- How Pilate let a revolutionary and murderer go free—Barabbas.
- How the two thieves on the other cross abused and mocked Jesus.
- How the religious leaders mocked Jesus. (This is Passover, what are they even doing there?!))
- How Jesus' concern for His own mother while dying.

This Roman soldier witnesses all this, compared to all the other crucifixions he's seen, and something clicks; he begins to worship the one true living God.

There is no greater miracle than belief!

Luke 23:48— *All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, went home, striking their chests.*

Spectacle—dramatic event, notable event, unusual sight.

People beating their chests is symbolic of grief and repentance for this mockery of justice.

Luke 23:49— *But all who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.*

From the other Gospel accounts, we know who these women were: Mary Magdalene (demon-possessed), Jesus' mother—Mary, and Salome (the wife of Zebedee and mother of the disciples James and John).

Luke 23:50— *There was a good and righteous man named Joseph, a member of the Sanhedrin,*

Notice how Joseph is not a member of the Twelve Disciples, but of the Sanhedrin.

The Sanhedrin is similar to our Supreme Court today.

Joseph was one of only two religious and political leaders (along with Nicodemus) who believed in Jesus.

Luke 23:51—*(Joseph) had not agreed with their plan and action. He was from Arimathea, a Judean town, and was looking forward to the kingdom of God.*


Joseph lived close to Jerusalem, was well educated, and a Believer.

He had hope that things would change, and by God's providence, he's a part of that change.

Luke 23:52—*He approached Pilate and asked for Jesus's body.*

Pontius Pilate is the Roman governor in charge of Jerusalem.

Because of Joseph's status as a politician, he worked with Pilate and knew him, and Pilate granted Joseph's request.

 **Luke 23:53**—Taking it down, he wrapped it in fine linen and placed it in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever been placed.,

This is Joseph's own tomb, and he begins the formal process of a Jewish burial by wrapping Jesus' body in fine linen cloths.

 **Luke 23:54**—It was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

OH! We have a problem.

Preparation day was when Jews prepared all the food and completed miscellaneous tasks for the next day, so they wouldn't have to work on the Sabbath.

The Sabbath Day is a day of complete rest.


The Jewish calendar was different from ours—days ran from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.—not midnight to midnight like hours.

Timing - Jesus dies around 3pm - Joseph gets approval from Pilate
It's probably 4pm or 5pm on Friday afternoon—Joseph only has an hour or so to take Jesus body down and get him into the borrowed tomb before the Sabbath day begins.

John's Gospel also tells us that Nicodemus helped.


Jews didn't embalm bodies; they wrapped them up in a linen sheet and tucked spices in the sheet.

The process was meticulous and deliberate, so it took a tremendous amount of time because it centered on the respectful handling of the deceased.

 **Luke 23:55**—The women who had come with him from Galilee followed along and observed the tomb and how his body was placed.

So we have Jesus' mother, Mary Magdalene, and Salome, who witnessed the crucifixion, and they followed Joseph to his tomb.

They are watching everything—down to the last detail of how Joseph placed Jesus' body in the tomb.


 **Luke 23:56**—*Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.*

So after Jesus' body is laid in the tomb, the women high-tail it home to prepare more spices and perfumes for Jesus' body.

Why are the women preparing spices and perfumes for the body? Because Joseph was rushed for time.

He didn't have adequate time to give Jesus a proper Jewish burial.

The women plan to come back and finish the job out of respect for Jesus.

 **Luke 24:1**—*On the first day of the week (Sunday), very early in the morning (before sunrise), they (the women) came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.*

Why so early? First, they couldn't sleep with everything that's happened over the past three days.

Second, Jesus died on Friday, and bodies start to decompose very quickly in the Israeli climate.

Saturday was the Sabbath, when everyone rested.

Sunday morning is the third day, and it's the first opportunity to return to the tomb.

Luke 24:1—they (women) came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.

Wait a second! They're walking to the tomb carrying spices and perfumes.

What's that tell us?

Resurrection is not even on their radar!

They went to the trouble of buying spices and making preparations to anoint a corpse.

KEYPOINT 1:
They're not coming to worship the Lord, but to bury him.

And it wasn't only the women who didn't believe in the resurrection—none of the disciples had even the slightest glimmer of hope.

However, in the providence of God the Father, there had not been enough time to complete the burial process, so Joseph's rushed job to bury Jesus was part of the Father's plan—how so?

Because it drew the women back to Jesus' tomb.

So here they are at the tomb...

Luke 24:2—They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

There were several types of tombs in Jesus' day.

This one was like a cave, with a very large, heavy, round stone at the entrance.

There's no way the women could have moved this rock—but it just so happens that it had already been moved out of the way.

What a coincidence! No, there are no coincidences in the Kingdom of God!

Not only was this rock moved out of the way, but the other Gospels also give the impression it was flung off its track and lying on its side.

Matthew's Gospel fills in the gaps...

Matthew 28:2—*There was a violent earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and approached the tomb. He rolled back the stone and was sitting on it.*

KEYPOINT 2:

The angel didn't remove the stone to let Jesus out, but to let the women in!

The women don't know about the angel but may have felt the earthquake.

Now, they don't know how or why the tomb is wide open for all the world to see that it's empty.

I bet their anxiety goes up a bit, wondering what's going on—because something smells a little fishy.

Regardless, they're brave...

Luke 24:3—*They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

The women expected to see a corpse.

They all witnessed Joseph lay Jesus in this tomb—they knew exactly where he laid the body—and Jesus was as dead as dead could be.

No one lives through a Roman flogging and crucifixion.

So, where's the body?

I bet they are on the verge of panic at this moment—speechless.

These women saw Jesus crucified, dead, and buried—and now he's gone.

Their first thought is that Jesus' body was stolen—John's Gospel tells us this.

It never occurred to them that His body could be anywhere ^{else} other than this tomb.

So the women are all looking in stunned silence at where the body is supposed to be—and it's not there.

Luke 24:4—*While they were perplexed about this,*

That's an understatement!

These women were at a complete loss—"perplexed" means confusion.

The last three days didn't make any sense to them whatsoever—they can't explain any of it.

- Why was Jesus falsely accused of crimes He didn't commit?
- Why were the religious leaders so angry with Him?
- Why were the Roman soldiers so brutal to Him?
- Why was He murdered like some revolutionary?
- Where's the body?

As they consider all these things...

Luke 24:4— suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes.

Not just clothes, but clothes that dazzled—these men flash and gleamed.

The same term is used for the Transfiguration of Jesus, in which Moses and Elijah appear.

These two men wore clothes resembling lightning.

In other words, these two guys are not from Cornville! They're not from around here!

They're not human—they're angels.

Angels are the holy messengers of Almighty God.

When angels appear to human beings (which doesn't happen often), they are usually robed in light.

So what would you do? How would you respond?

Luke 24:5—So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground.

These poor women!

They haven't slept for three days—their emotions were already on high alert as they walked to the tomb.

They get to the tomb and see the door wide open, and think someone stole Jesus' body.

Now, they are stressed out to the max.

Two angels blind them with their presence.

They do what we do—first, terror would run through our bones.

Second, when someone shines a bright light in your face, what do you do?

These women represent you and me!

And if all this isn't alarming enough, now the angel speaks.

Luke 24:5— “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” asked the men.

So these women are not only in the presence of an angel—but an angel with an attitude!

He's a snarky comedian kind of angel! I can't wait to meet him in Heaven.

He doesn't introduce himself; he asks a snarky rhetorical question— “*Why are you looking for the living among the dead?*”

But don't miss his message—Jesus can't be found in a tomb, because people who are alive don't hang out at the graveyard.

Let's not be too hard on these women—because if you take flowers to the cemetery, do you expect to see an empty grave?

And if you did see one, would the first thing that comes to mind be that this person had risen from the dead? Of course not!

However,

These precious women were operating on a faulty assumption.

KEYPOINT 3:

They are living their lives as if Jesus were dead.

They assumed that He was a martyr and not the Messiah.

They were sincere about bringing spices and wanting to bury Jesus' body properly—and at the same time sincerely wrong.

The women wasted their money on the spices.

It was scandalous to look for the One True Living God in the graveyard.

So the angel continues...

Luke 24:6—“*He is not here,*

Thanks, Captain Obvious! They can see that! Where is He?

Luke 24:6—*but he has risen!*

These are three of the greatest words mankind could ever hear!—***He has risen!***

The angels, technically, offer no proof of Jesus’ resurrection— instead, they *proclaim* the resurrection.

They proclaim what was promised all the way back in Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve sinned.

They proclaim what the prophets prophesied in the OT.

The proof comes later, when Jesus reveals Himself not only to the women and the Disciples but also to 500 people at one time (1 Cor. 15:6).

And even when Jesus reveals Himself, some people still refuse to believe.

But they are to believe that Jesus is who He says He is.

And they are to believe that Jesus did what He said He would do.

His body is not there because Jesus is not a martyr—He’s the Messiah/Savior/Anointed One!

He is the One True Living God who conquered death and sin for everyone who has the faith to believe.

KEYPOINT 4:

The Gospel stands or falls on Christ's resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:3—For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:4—that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:14 NLT—And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless.

1 Corinthians 15:17 NLT—And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.

This is why today's celebration is so important to us—our faith hinges on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Fabrication/Fiction

If the resurrection isn't real—we've all got a big problem in our hands—no one's going to Heaven.

If Jesus were only a good man who taught good morals and died as a martyr, we're all doomed, and there is no hope.

None of us are forgiven because it takes perfection to be forgiven.

But we do have hope: by God's GRACE ARE NOT DOOMED.

Luke 24:6—Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, Remember—We all need to be reminded, don't we?

At our age, we walk into a room and don't remember why we're even there.

How much more important is it to be reminded of spiritual things—things that actually matter!

Things that will change your life—things regarding eternal life.

That's why Jesus ordained the church—regardless of all her flaws.

We are to be careful not to curse what God has blessed - church

The church was instituted by Jesus so that His people would come and worship Him through spiritual songs, the reading of the Word, the explanation of the Word, and the application of the Word.

So that we can be reminded week in and week out of His Gospel.

What did the angel remind them of?

+ **Luke 24:7**—saying, *It is necessary* that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men,

In other words, every dreadful event that took place over the past three days needed to happen as it did.

Not only did The Father say it would happen, but it must also happen.

If God's plan of redemption didn't happen as Scripture states, then God would be a liar—and God can't lie.

The Father's plan unfolded exactly as He intended.

There is no “plan B” for salvation.

The title, “Son of Man,” refers to Jesus.

It was His favorite designation for Himself.


It refers to Jesus' dual nature in one body—Jesus is truly Divine and, at the same time, truly Human.

In other words, as the second person of the Holy Trinity—Jesus is the face of God.

God is three persons in one—it's an incredible mystery: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Each person within the Trinity had a role in the plan of redemption.

1. The Father sent the Son.
2. The Son accomplished the work.
3. The Holy Spirit applies Jesus' work to every Believer.

 **Luke 24:7**—saying, *'It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day'?*"

Jesus told the Disciples about the resurrection in advance—three separate times.

But they didn't want to believe.


Not only that, but they tried to prevent it from happening.

So, here's the irony— the very first people who had to be convinced that Jesus actually rose from the dead were not atheists, agnostics, Romans, Jewish Leaders—but the Disciples themselves!


Jesus' own Disciples were the first skeptics who had to become convinced that Jesus was raised!

They were not a gullible group that took resurrection as a given.

Now, it's only after the angel reminds them of what Jesus said earlier...

 **Luke 24:8**—*And they remembered his words.*

Everything happened just the way that Jesus said.

The words of His prophecies all came true. Jesus was crucified,  dead, and buried, and three days later resurrected.

This is often the case with us— until we believe that Jesus is God—(we don't choose God, we are to believe God)— and was resurrected from the dead— life makes no sense.

Life made no sense to these women or the Disciples. Why?

Because they refused to believe the truth.

The same things happen to us 2,000 years later.

Without belief in the resurrection...

- Today's current events make no sense.
- Politicians doing what they do makes no sense.
- Our children are doing what they do and making decisions they shouldn't.
- The tragedies in life certainly make no sense.

But when we do believe in the resurrection—that Jesus Christ offers you eternal life and you respond in belief— everything else starts to fall slowly into place.

Life is still really hard—and doesn't necessarily become easier.

Please don't believe that lie.

That's the lie of the prosperity gospel—that Jesus came to make you healthy and wealthy.

Health and wealth have nothing to do with Jesus coming—Jesus didn't come to make life easy—He came to offer forgiveness.

And that's:

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