

There are study guides in the back for the special study this morning in Luke chapter 24 verses 1 through 12. Luke's version of the events that took place at the tomb.

Luke 24 verse at verse 1. **Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning**, actually literally, early or deep dawn, **they**, that is the women who had prepared spices in chapter 23, **they came upon the sepulchre**, a sepulchre is a tomb, **bringing** or carrying **the spices which they prepared, and certain others** that is certain other women, **were with them.**
² And they found the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. The perfect tense, "had been rolled away" shows that it was rolled away when they got there. It was in a condition of being rolled away. **³ And after they entered in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.**
⁴ And it happened as they were thoroughly perplexed concerning this, that behold two men stood over them, that is the literal translation, so they were either on the top of the stone of the door, or up in an elevated position, **that behold, two men stood over them.** We know from the other gospel accounts that these are angels, **in shining clothing:** **⁵ And when they became afraid**, that is the women, **and while bowing their faces towards the earth, they**, that is the angels **said to them, Why are you seeking the living among the dead?** Literally "Why are you seeking the living one among the dead ones?" **⁶ He is not here, but he was raised: remember how he spoke to you while still being in Galilee,** **⁷ Saying that it is necessary for The Son of man to be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and to be crucified, and the third day to rise up.** **⁸ And they remembered his words,** **⁹ And after returning from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest.** **¹⁰ And they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and rest of the women who were with them, who were telling these things to the apostles.** And the Apostles response in verse 11: **And their words appeared before them as idle tales**, literally, nonsense, **and they were**

disbelieving them. Notice the literal translation, "they were continually refusing to be persuaded that this was true." ¹² **Now after Peter rose up he ran to the tomb; and after having bent down he sees the linen clothes lying alone;** Let me give you a special little piece of information about this phrase. It means what he saw were the linen clothes that Jesus was in, lying there in a shell with no body in it. They were not unwound. It had the shape of a body, but no body in it. And **he went away wondering to himself at the thing which had happened.**

Three things very quickly before we focus on one.

Number one: the Evidence here at the scene. In verse 3 it tells us when the women entered into the tomb they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They came with spices to anoint the body as is their custom and there was no body. We know later on that the linen cloth was there, still in bodily shape, but no body in it.

Secondly we see in verse 6 the announcement of the Angels. **You're looking for the living One among the dead but he is not here. He was raised.**

Thirdly, verse 12, notice Peter. After he heard what the women had to say and he was part of those who were not believing them, he comes to the tomb. He sees the grave clothes all wrapped together with no body in it and he's leaving wondering.

So what you have is you have a group of women who totally come to belief because of what the angel said and they remembered the words of Jesus. You have Peter who sees it and hears it and he's just wondering, "What has happened here?" He is kind of in between. Then you have the rest of the disciples, the eleven, who refuse to believe. They refuse to be persuaded that what the women are telling them is true.

The Effects of it all: First of all in verse 8: After the Angels made the announcement, Don't you remember what Jesus told you? Don't you remember that He told you He had to be

crucified and that He would be raised again on the third day? Don't you remember that? And they remembered. Which was a miracle in and of itself in light of everybody else disbelieving.

The second effect is that in verse 11 it tells us that the eleven disciples, you know the apostles of the Lord, all of them were disbelieving the story.

And thirdly Peter, wondering. The effects on Peter, he was wondering.

So we see the Evidence. We see the Effects of that evidence on the people. But thirdly, I want to point out to the Event. The Event in verses four through eight and that is our focus this morning. Very important study.

⁴ And it happened as the women were thoroughly perplexed concerning this, that behold two men stood over them in shining clothing: ⁵ And when the women became afraid, and were bowing their faces towards the earth, the angel said to them, "Why are you seeking the living one with the dead ones?" ⁶ He is not here, he was raised: remember how he spoke to you while still being in Galilee, ⁷ that it is necessary for The Son of man to be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and to be crucified, and the third day to rise up. ⁸ And they remembered his words.

Our focus this morning is on this penetrating question. Because it's not just for them. This is like the question for all of life that these women were faced with. **Why are you seeking the living among the dead?** Why are you going to a cemetery where they bury dead people to look for the living One? Of course, they weren't looking for the living One they thought indeed He was dead. He died on the cross. They took Him down. He was dead. They put Him in a tomb. He was dead. But He was living.

Just like us. Just like we do. Here's the main thought for this morning. We keep looking for life among dead things. Constantly. We keep looking for life among dead things. One of the

reasons you're here this morning is because you're looking for the meaning to life. The reason why you make decisions in life the way you do is you hope to experience life in what you're doing. You hope to find life. So this brings us to an interesting study.

There are three primary Greek words used in the New Testament for the word life. This is very important. The first Greek word that is used is the word **βίος** (*bee-os*). It's where we get our English word biology from. **βίος** in the Scriptures when it's translated life is making reference to human life. Human existence. Human experience. That's what you and I experience 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And when we feel stimulated and exhilarated in what we are doing we say, "Boy, I'm really experiencing life now." Purely human. Purely human. **βίος** life.

The second word for life is the word **ψυχή** (*psue-kay*) and its sister word **ψυχικός** (*psue-key-kos*). **ψυχή** is the mind, where we get the English word psychology from. It's the life of the mind, the life of the thoughts. It is psychology, psychological life. What is interesting that every human being functions on **βίος** life and **ψυχή** life. In fact many Christians try to practice Christianity in a psychological way, practicing the principles of Scripture. And is not psychological. It is spiritual.

There is another word for life, catch this now, there's another word for life in the New Testament. It's the word **ζωή** (*dzoh-ay*), Z-O-A-Y for those of you taking notes. It's quality of life. And did you know the Bible says that there is only one **ζωή** in the entire universe? It's the word used for Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John chapter 14 verse 6, He said, **I am the way, the truth, and the life.** Jesus Christ is the **ζωή**. He as a person, He doesn't just give it, He as a person is the quality of life that you and I are looking for. He is the one who comes to live within the hearts of people who receive Him and He resides within and He is life. It is not the

βίος life of existence. It is not the psychological life of thoughts and processes. But it's the quality of life of Jesus Christ Himself. And in the entire universe you can only experience quality of life with one thing or one person, and that's Jesus Christ. It's the way God planned it.

John said in 1 John chapter 5 verse 12, **The one who has the Son has life - ζωή. The one who does not have the Son does not have life.** Cut and dry. And you say, "But I do have life because I'm living. I experience existence. I feel and I experience life." That's **βίος**. That is human life. Why do we continue to think that going out and earning as much money as we can and having as many material things as we can get, why do we think that my human side of life must be better and more comfortable for me to reach this utopia so that I can experience the satisfaction of life? When in reality, not only from the Bible, but the reality of everyday life, the more you acquire the more empty you become, inside. You don't experience life. I've experienced it with my own children, I've experienced it with hundreds, if not thousands of people over the years, who come in for counseling, and they say, "I'm looking for people for my happiness, I'm looking for circumstances for my happiness, and I'm trying everything that I can to reach that fulfillment of life, and I can't find it." That is because it's not out here. It is not out here.

In John chapter 11 verses 23 to 26, in connecting life with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remember Jesus Christ *is* the life. In John chapter 11 at verse 23, Jesus was coming into the town of Mary and Martha and Lazarus. Lazarus has just died and Martha meets Him at the beginning of the city, and she said, "**Had you been here, my brother would not have died.** But he's dead. You're too late. You could have healed him." **Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."** **Martha says to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection, in the last day."** You see the Jews hold a doctrinal position that there will be a resurrection of

believers in the last day, at the last time. It is a doctrine and a hope that they hold. He says, "Your brother will rise again." She goes, "I know we have this doctrinal belief that in the last day that we are all going to rise again." Jesus said to her, listen to this, John 11:25, **"I am the resurrection, and the life."** Both of these with definite articles. Not just life in general. Not just resurrection in general. **"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"**

See, this day millions of people around the world are getting together to celebrate the Event of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ that happened 2000 years ago. The reality is, we don't just celebrate an event, we celebrate a person. You see the resurrection is a person, not just an event. Life is a person, not just an experience. So the importance of this is found in three things. I want to share three areas with you, how the resurrection life of Jesus Christ, why it's important.

First of all, the resurrection life of Christ is important in salvation. Do you know that when a person becomes saved, salvation is an experience, not a religious belief? It is actually a spiritual experience of receiving Christ and being born of His Spirit. But the salvation experience is literally experiencing the resurrection life of Christ bringing a person from the spiritual dead.

In Ephesians chapter 2 verses 1 through 6, Paul says, **And you who were dead in trespasses and sins.** See, right now, every human being is alive humanly, **βίος** and psychologically, **ψυχικός**. But the Bible says that if you have not been born of the Spirit of Christ you are dead spiritually. That inner life, you are cut off from the Spirit of God and that's why you keep looking, keep reaching, and trying to find that that inner satisfaction and peace. That quality of life that you really want on the inside. Wouldn't it be great if there was

somebody who could come up and tell you, "Do you know that you can experience such a high quality of life inside your inner person that you won't even care what's going on around you? You won't care what happens to you. You won't care what other people are doing. You'll be so satisfied." That's what Jesus says. We keep looking in all the wrong places. Why are you looking for a life among the dead? **You were dead in your trespasses and sins** - he's describing what a person is like before they receive Christ. **Wherein in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air.** The Bible teaches that Satan rules even in the air. If you say, "If I could just go off on an island by myself and my Bible, I'd be just fine." If you're breathing the air, you are influenced by Satan. **The spirit that is now working in the children of the disobedience:** that is Satan, ³ **Among whom also we all had our lifestyle once, in the desires of our flesh, doing the will of the flesh and of the thoughts of the mind; and we were by nature the children of wrath, even as the rest.** ⁴ **But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherein he loved us,** ⁵ **Even while we were dead in our sins, He made us alive together with Christ.** Listen to the resurrection language, ⁶ **And has raised us up together with Him, and made us sit together in the spirit realm in Christ Jesus.** A person is dead spiritually in their sins. What happens is, the resurrection life of Jesus Christ comes into a person's soul, or their spirit, and brings them from the spiritual dead into life, the life of Christ himself, the ζωή, the quality of life. When I experienced salvation I was resurrected from the dead through the resurrection life of Jesus Christ.

Peter says in 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 3, **Blessed is the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ who according to his abundant mercy has regenerated us into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the from the dead.** Regenerated, born-again,

experiencing a spiritual birth, which is necessary. That's what salvation is. Not your religious belief. Earlier we talked about Jesus dying on the cross. He suffered the punishment for my sins. He paid the penalty for my sins so that salvation is a free gift. I can receive Christ and be born of His Spirit in me and the only thing it is going to cost me is my surrender. I don't have to pay for it. It has already been paid for. It is a spiritual birth.

Secondly, the resurrection life of Christ, not only is in salvation but it is in everyday life. Listen to this one. Paul in Ephesians chapter 1 verses 15 through 20, Paul says, **When I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you have for all the saints,**¹⁶ **I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.** In other words, I heard you are saved now, you've got the love and faith of Christ inside of you, functioning, operational, the love of God is ministering in your midst. **I cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you upon the occasion of my prayers**¹⁷ **That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of him:**¹⁸ **That the eyes of your understanding would be enlightened,** to understand three things: **that you might know the hope of his calling.** The word 'hope' in the Greek text, the New Testament, doesn't mean a wish, it means a certainty. When I receive Christ I can be certain that I have eternity with the Lord when I die and the forgiveness for my sins. Secondly, **and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.** God has an inheritance in me. Do you realize what it cost Him for His Son to come inside of me and give me resurrected life to be born of His Spirit? He has a vested inheritance in me. And thirdly,¹⁹ **And that you might know what is the exceeding greatness of his power towards us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,**²⁰ **Which he worked in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the spirit realm.** He says,

"I'm praying for you," if you're saved, if Christ is living inside of you, "I'm praying that you will know what kind of power is energizing inside of you at all times." It's the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

Now, a lot of the times if you see me during the week, whether it be the physical body giving me trouble, or circumstances in life giving me trouble, you wouldn't know that I have the fullness of the resurrection power in the person of Jesus Christ living inside of me. Why is that? Because I'm looking out here. "Oh woe is me! Life is so hard. I just can't seem to find my way. Everything keeps going wrong. I keep doing everything wrong. Things don't seem to be working out for me. Not like I expected when I was back in junior high and high school and just thought, 'Wow, I would really like to make a successful life out of myself.' And look at me."

Paul says, "I'm praying for you that the eyes of your hearts would be enlightened as to who lives in you. If you have been resurrected by the life of Christ into a new life, spiritual life in the fullness of Christ, I'm praying that you have the realization of the power. Why are you looking for life among dead things?" Now I have a license in counseling, it is on a doctorate level. But counseling is so easy, because there is only one answer. Every time I sit and listen either to myself, or to someone else, they are telling me about an activity or a person that they're looking to for their happiness and for their life. Period. And I can say, "Well, there's your problem, that's dead. Mm mmm, no spiritual life there."

"But if I just had a higher paying job..."

"No, you might get a little more money, but there's no life there."

"If I could move...."

"You might move but there's no life there."

In essence, "Where you going?"

It's right here. He is right there. What do I have to work at? I just have to work at Him. Getting to know Him. That's the most important thing in my life, is knowing Him and interacting with the resurrection life of Jesus Christ. We keep turning to external things and people to find life. But life can only be experienced in my spirit in the inner person where Christ dwells. He is the only life. Period.

Paul said in Philippians chapter 3 verse 10, He says, **The desire of my life is to know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings while being conformed to his death.** I got to mention this. Over the years I've heard a lot of people say, "Power of the resurrection, Amen, brother. That power. We need the power." He also said, **and the fellowship of his sufferings.** How many of us have ever said, "I would really like to experience the sufferings of Christ, to get to know Him." People will lock you up. They'll say, "You got the wrong religion." Nobody ever wants to experience suffering. But they're not my sufferings, they are His. So if I suffer with His sufferings I will get to know Him along with the power of the resurrection, which helps me go through the sufferings.

Thirdly, so far we've seen the resurrection life of Christ in salvation. Secondly the resurrection life of Christ in everyday life. Thirdly, the resurrection of the life of Christ in eternal life. Life in the hereafter. What hope and promise do you have that when you die you will face eternity in heaven? Jesus said in John chapter 5 verses 28 and 29, He says, **Don't marvel at the things that I'm telling you because the hour is coming, in which all the ones in the graves will hear my voice, and will come out; the ones having done good, unto the resurrection of life; and the ones having practiced corruption, they will be raised up into a resurrection of judgment.** Jesus Christ has the authority and the power to raise everybody up out of the graves in the last day.

In John chapter 6 verse 40, Jesus said, **For this is the will of him that sent me, in order that everybody seeing the Son, and believing into him, should have everlasting life: and I myself, will raise him up in the last day.** Jesus Himself will raise people up out of the grave.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 51 to 54 how we will be raised up and changed. He says, **Behold, I tell a mystery to you; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, in the last trumpet: for a trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we ourselves will be changed.** ⁵³ **For it is necessary for this corruptible to put on incorruption, and for this mortal to put on immortality.** ⁵⁴ **But whenever this corruptible will put on incorruption, and this mortal will put on immortality, then will happen which has been written, Isaiah 25:8, Death was swallowed up in victory.** You see, when Jesus rose from the dead He not only was raised to life but He defeated death. Death could not hold Him. When you and I die, we will be resurrected by the resurrection life of Jesus Christ. Because He Himself defeated death and He Himself rose from the grave. He is the one who has authority in all of this.

So, in closing, let me go back to John chapter 11 verses 25 and 26. You remember Jesus speaking to Martha? She said, **"Had you been here my brother would not have died."** Jesus said, in verse 25, **"I am the resurrection, and I am the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶ And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"** Not speaking to you religiously, but do you realize that the person of Jesus Christ is the resurrection. And the person of Jesus Christ is the only quality of life in the entire universe. And the only one made for a human being to experience in order to experience that quality of life that you and I are working so hard to attain. It is not found among dead things. There might be human life but there is spiritual death. There might be psychological life but

there is spiritual death. Only in the person of Jesus Christ can one experience life. Quality life. Satisfaction life. Content life. Everything else is temporary. God designed it that way so that everybody would have to come to Jesus Christ to receive life. The question is, do you believe this? Why are you seeking life among dead things? How long will you continue to think that maybe just being religious is good enough? Maybe going to church is good enough? Maybe reading your Bible is good enough? All of these things are good in and of themselves but it doesn't bring life. It is only my response to the person of Jesus Christ. To me personally, not my religious beliefs, but my response to Him.

After today, and I say this every year, people will forget all about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They say, "Well, next year, we will bring it out again remember it." The event. The sad thing is that this afternoon, and tomorrow, and the day after, the day after, the resurrected Jesus Christ is still alive and He is still in our midst alive, every day, to bring the resurrection life of Christ for salvation.

If you've never received Christ, I am not talking about intellectual belief, if you have never received Christ, He wants to bring his resurrection life into you and make you alive and reside within your soul forever. And be there so that in everyday life, as we keep handling empty dead things, we can experience a resurrection of Christ in us giving that contentment and that satisfaction that we've been looking for. And then with the hope of the future because Christ lives in me and He will never leave me nor forsake me. He will live in my soul forever. When I die He's going to raise me up to be with Him forever.

Now, I don't know about you, but that's about the best deal you can ever get on the planet. Unless you just flat-out don't want to go that route and you'd rather live life the way you want to. You see, when Jesus Christ comes in to your life, He comes in as Lord. Our problem is that

we've lived life the way we've wanted to, we've gone our own way. When Jesus Christ comes in with His resurrection life He leads us according to his will, not ours. And many people just say, "Well, I'll put it off for now cause I've got other things that I want to do." So you keep experiencing the emptiness of dead things and taking a chance that today might be your last day on the earth, and you stand before the Lord Himself.

So, my invitation to you, and my encouragement to you: Remember the resurrection life of Christ. He is with you every day. And psychologically when we get discouraged and depressed with life, the fullness of Christ in all that He is lives inside. If you have received Him, He lives inside. There, for me to turn to the inner man, as Paul said in Ephesians chapter 3, **"Turn to the inner man where Christ dwells."** Look in here. Don't look out there. And when we begin to look to Christ for our contentment and our satisfaction it won't make any difference what anybody else is doing. It won't make any difference what's happening around us, because we are no longer dependent on those things working out a certain way for our happiness. Our happiness will be in Christ. Let's close with prayer.