



CERTAINTY

Challenging Our Certainties

Luke 24:1-12

Up From The Grave

Up from the grave **(2x)**

Up from the grave He arose

Took my sins to Calvary's cross

Took my sins away

He conquered death, hell and the grave

He lives forever more

He's coming back to claim His own

He's coming back for me - **YEAH**



CERTAINTY

Challenging Our Certainties
Luke 24:1-12

Challenging Our Certainties

- Benjamin Franklin in 1789, “Nothing is certain except death and taxes.”
 - Over 200 years later, it still rings true
 - Although taxes on income and profits can almost never be avoided, death is certain
 - **Ezekiel 18:20 ESV**, “The soul who sins shall die.”
 - **Romans 3:23 NIV**, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - **Romans 6:23a, NIV**, “For the wages of sin is death”

Challenging Our Certainties

- One of the certainties of life is all die, and the dead stay dead
 - Unless one is resuscitated like Lazarus then they just die later
- This is the perspective of everyone around Jesus after His crucifixion
 - They had seen Him die
 - Heard Him declare it is finished and then give up His spirit
 - Seen the soldier's spear pierce His side

Challenging Our Certainties

- This is the perspective of everyone around Jesus after His crucifixion
 - They had seen Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus remove His dead body from the cross, carry it to Joseph's family tomb, anoint it with burial spices
 - Seen the massive stone rolled into place sealing the tomb shut
 - Seen the tomb marked with the Roman seal
 - Seen guards watching the tomb

Challenging Our Certainties

- Religious leaders understood this – make sure none of His disciples steal His body (*Matt. 27:64*) because He will stay dead, but His disciples can make a mess by stealing His body and saying He was alive
- Grieving women understood this as they prepared burial spices after the Sabbath to anoint Jesus' dead body as a final act of love, respect, and remembrance (*Luke 24:1*)
- Jesus' Disciples understood this as they stay sequestered in the upper room



CERTAINTY

Challenging Our Certainties
Luke 24:1-12

Challenging Our Certainties

- The story of Resurrection morning begins with the obvious: Jesus is dead, and his followers are certain that he will remain dead
- Even the miracle of the empty tomb does not lead to an easy change of perspective instead it brought confusion, not clarity
 - Unbelief, unremembering God's Word always does this

Scripture

- **Luke 24:1-12 NIV**, 1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” 8 Then they remembered his words.

Scripture

- **Luke 24:1-12 NIV**, 9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.



CERTAINTY

Challenging Our Certainties
Luke 24:1-12

Good Good Father

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night
And You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

You're a good, good father
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by you
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide
But I know we're all searching
For answers only you provide
Cause you know just what we need
Before we say a word

You're a good, good father
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by you
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

You are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways to us

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper

You're a good, good father

It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are

And I'm loved by you

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am



CERTAINTY

Challenging Our Certainties
Luke 24:1-12

Challenging Our Certainties

- One might be tempted to linger over the description of these angelic messengers, but they are not the point
 - The focus in this section is on the message, not the messengers
(24:4-7)
 - Just as angels announced the birth of Jesus to those assumed unimportant, they announced the Resurrection to women that culture labeled as weak
 - This might also be because God knew coming from the disciples it would look like they manipulated the situation then claimed it

Challenging Our Certainties

- **1st Corinthians 1:27-29 NIV**, “27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him.”
 - **MSG**, “God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these “nobodies” to expose the hollow pretensions (*self-importance*) of the “somebodies”? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God.”

The women receive a message that runs counter to what they know to be true

- “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen” (24:5)
 - *MSG*, “Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery?”
- What is most striking is that the women encounter the resurrection through this message not by seeing the resurrected Jesus
 - They are told that Jesus has risen, but they do not see the risen Jesus himself
 - What they have is a word, a message

The women receive a message that runs counter to what they know to be true

- They believed not because of the empty tomb, but because Jesus said He would live again (24:7), “Then they remembered his words.” (24:8)
- Aren’t you glad God works outside of our unbelief to bring His truth into our certainties
 - “I will always be this way”, “It will always be this way”, “It is hopeless”, “I am weak, useless, fragile, hopeless”
 - All certainties that appear to us as unbreakable

The women receive a message that runs counter to what they know to be true

- **Ephesians 3:20 NIV**, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”
 - **20-21 MSG**, “God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.”

The women receive a message that runs counter to what they know to be true

- Paul was certain his thorn in the flesh would greatly hinder or prevent him from successfully being the evangelist he was supposed to be
 - **2nd Corinthians 12:9-10 NIV**, 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness...For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
- The women’s experience brings the Easter experience close, because this is precisely what we have—the word of resurrection in Scripture presented by eyewitnesses not looking for a resurrected Jesus

The women receive a message that runs counter to what they know to be true

- One would think God would work differently
 - It would seem so much more efficient to have the women come to the tomb and watch Jesus walk out into the light of a new day
 - And it would seem much easier for Jesus simply to appear in dazzling glory to us, who gather on an Easter morning generations later
- And this is precisely where our situation is like that of the women on the first Easter: we are all given a message of resurrection, which flies in the face of what we are certain to be true

The only scientific and logical response to such an unbelievable message is unbelief

- Experience teaches that death wins
 - The Easter message says that Jesus lives
 - When such contradictory claims collide, it only makes sense to continue affirming what we already are certain is true
 - This is what Luke reports in the next section *(24:8-11)*
 - The women bring the message of resurrection to the others, and they respond as thinking people regularly respond, the message was “an idle tale, and they did not believe them” *(24:11)*

The only scientific and logical response to such an unbelievable message is unbelief

- Unbelief does not mean that people believe nothing, rather, it means that they believe something else
 - People say “I don’t believe it” because there is something else that they believe more strongly – experience, science, biology, funerals
- Yet here is where the Easter message begins its work, it challenges our certainties

The only scientific and logical response to such an unbelievable message is unbelief

- Experience teaches that death wins and that even the strongest succumb to it
 - Experience teaches that life is what you make it, so get what you can while you can because it will be over soon enough
- And the Easter message says, “Really? How can you be so sure?”
 - Death is real, but it is not final
 - In Jesus, life gets the last word

The Easter message calls you from your old belief in death to a new belief in life

- The claim that the tomb could not hold Jesus, and the idea that the one who died by crucifixion has now risen is so outrageous that it might make you wonder whether it might—just might—be true
 - **John 16:8 ESV**, “And when he (*Holy Spirit*) comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment”
 - **John 16:13 NIV**, “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”

The Easter message calls you from your old belief in death to a new belief in life

- The message was so outrageous that Peter had to go and take a look for himself (24:12), he had to wonder, “What if it is true?”
- We have heard and believe the rumor that Jesus is alive, and we have come to hear this morning again and ask the question, “What if it is true?”
 - What if death is real, but not final?
 - What if Jesus is not merely past but present?
 - What if Jesus were to meet me here?

The Easter message calls you from your old belief in death to a new belief in life

- What would life be then?
 - **John 10:10 NIV**, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”
 - **Galatians 5:1 NIV**, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Challenging Our Certainties

- God continues to challenge all our certainties with the promise of life
 - If Jesus can overcome our certainty of death, then none of our fleshly certainties are really certainties
- Now that the tomb of certainty is empty it becomes a place of hope where you can place all of your false certainties
 - Without Hope? Not when Jesus is alive throw it in the tomb
 - Doomed to failure? Not when Jesus is alive throw it in the tomb
 - Overcome by addiction, fear, anxiety....? Not when Jesus is alive throw them in the tomb

Challenging Our Certainties

- It's not about feelings-truth or eye-truth or scientific-truth or political-truth or even religion-truth but God's truth in His promises found in Scripture
 - **2nd Corinthians 1:20 ESV**, "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him (*Jesus*)."

Challenging Our Certainties

- There is one certainty we as Children of God can hold onto – the certainty of eternal life with our blessed Savior
 - Paul said when we are absent from our earthly bodies we will immediately be in the presence of the Lord, *(2nd Cor. 5:8)*
 - Jesus said Himself that He is coming back for us **John 14:3 NIV**, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Challenging Our Certainties

- There is one certainty we can hang onto without wavering— Jesus is alive and since He is alive so will we be
- Hear God say to you this morning, “Through the living Jesus, I give you the gift of life. Why would you think that I would offer you anything less?”



CERTAINTY

Challenging Our Certainties
Luke 24:1-12