

From Death to Life (5)
The Journey of Redemption
The Empty Tomb
(Luke 24:1–12; 1 Corinthians 15:54–57)

Introduction: Easter = Resurrection Sunday — the day death got evicted! The resurrection proves Jesus’ victory over sin and death, giving us new life and eternal hope. Because of Jesus’ resurrection, we can live in the power of the resurrection, knowing death has no hold on us. The Apostle Paul put it like this in 1 Corinthians 15:17 “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” But He is risen! The cross was the payment, but the resurrection is the receipt. Today, we don’t mourn a dead Savior. We celebrate a risen King!

I. The resurrection account: (Luke 24:1–12)

A. Early Sunday morning

- The women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary mother of James) go to the tomb expecting death.

B. What they find instead:

1. **Open tomb** – The stone is rolled away.
2. **Empty tomb** – Jesus is not there!
3. **Angelic encounter**
 - Their clothes like lightning
 - Their question: “*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!*” (v.5–6)
 - Their comfort – A reminder: The words of Jesus (v.6–7)

God chose these women to be the first preachers of the resurrection—elevating the overlooked and using the underestimated.

C. The disciples’ reaction

- **Luke 24:11** – “*They did not believe the women...*”
- **Luke 24:12** – Peter runs to see for himself

Faith is not the absence of doubt—it’s **trusting Jesus anyway**.

Where in your life are you “looking for the living among the dead”?

- Old habits?
- Guilt and shame?
- Fear and doubt?

Faith = Is taking the next step

- Like Peter, like the women—run toward Jesus!

II. Victory over death: (1 Corinthians 15:54–57)

Here the Apostle Paul gives us a glimpse of the victory we have because of the empty tomb.

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

Like a child stung by fire ants or yellow jackets—we feel the pain, but we’re not dying.

1. Jesus absorbed the sting.
2. The cross took the poison.
3. The resurrection is the announcement: *Death has no power here anymore.*

1 Corinthians 15:57 – “*Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*” *This passage tells us,*

We don’t fight for victory—we fight from victory! So, we can...

III. Live in the power of the resurrection:

Romans 8:11 –Tell us, “*The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you.*”

A. What does this mean for everyday life?

1. You don’t have to live defeated

- No shame
- No fear

2. Jesus can handle what’s haunting you

- If He conquered the grave...
 - He can conquer anxiety
 - He can restore a broken relationship
 - He can defeat sin

If you’re not living in the power of the resurrection, you’re living like you’re still in prison with the orange jumpsuit—even though the door is open.

The resurrection is not just for Easter—it’s for every day. So, I must ask:

- Am I living like someone who’s been set free?
- Does my life reflect resurrection power? (If so, you must...)

IV. Share your testimony:

Easter isn’t just to be celebrated—it’s to be shared.

A. People around us are:

- Buried in shame
- Trapped in addiction
- Paralyzed by fear

B. You might be the only empty tomb story they ever hear.

1. Tell your story:
 - How Jesus brought you out of darkness
 - How you were once lost but now are found
2. Don’t wait for a perfect time or testimony—just point to the perfect Savior.

Conclusion:

1. Where in your life do you need resurrection power?
2. Who needs to hear *your* resurrection story this week?
3. What step can you take today to live more fully in the freedom Jesus won?