

Oh, What a Morning!

Luke 24: 1-12

Today is a day that represents many things to many people. For some, it signals the beginning of the vacation season. For others, it is a day that is consumed with bunnies, eggs, and new clothes. And then there are those who choose to ignore Easter Sunday all together. Some simply refuse to believe or even acknowledge this glorious day of celebration and remembrance. Few look at Easter from a biblical perspective anymore.

However, for the Christian, today is a day that is set apart to celebrate the abundance that we have received in Christ. It is a day that reminds us of His resurrection and the hope that we have through Him. Because Christ Jesus lives, we too have the hope of eternal life. Had Jesus not risen, there would be no hope of life beyond the grave.

Easter is a day that has been filled with various emotions and reactions since that first Easter morning. These verses reveal the varied responses of those who were present during the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. No doubt there is application for our lives as well. I hope that you have come this morning with a desire to worship the risen Lord. Easter is a day of hope, but even on this special day, we may be dealing with some of the same emotions as those who were there that day. Let's take a few moments to consider the [events](#) of that first resurrection morning as we think on the thought: [Oh, What a Morning](#).

I. A Morning of Doubt (1) – [Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.](#) We find that the women had made their way to the sepulcher very early in the morning upon the first day of the week. They had waited for the Sabbath to pass so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. Jesus' body had been taken down by Joseph of Arimathea and placed in his tomb. It was getting toward sunset and the Sabbath was about to begin.

- No doubt it had been a long night as the women waited for sunrise and the end of the Sabbath, so that they might go and properly prepare Jesus' body. On the surface this appears to be an act of love and devotion. But, we find with their intentions, they were not going expecting to find a risen Lord. They had no hope of Jesus being risen just as He said He would. They were going to do all they could as a last respect to one who had died.
- It is easy for us to look upon these women with an attitude of criticism. How could they have gone that morning expecting Jesus to have remained in the tomb? He had promised that He would rise on the third day. These had met the Lord; they had walked with Him; they had believed in Him as the Messiah and yet their hearts were filled with doubt.

- We too have looked at our faith with the same doubt and unbelief. We have read the gospel accounts and yet often we live as if we do not believe. Many will gather in churches today with hearts of doubt.

I. A Morning of Doubt (1)

II. A Morning of Despair (2-4) – And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. [3] And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. [4] And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: As the women arrived they discovered that the stone had been rolled away and Jesus was no longer in the tomb. We find that they were **much perplexed**. This literally means that they were “*entirely at a loss*.” Their hearts were filled with despair and it seemed as if all hope was gone. They were unable to anoint His body for the burial.

- We have not come bringing spices this morning, but many are living today much perplexed. You may be here today and life has not turned out as you hoped it would. Maybe you are in the midst of a trial and it seems as if hope is gone. You feel as if there is no reason to go on. You are contemplating giving up on your faith. You have tried to serve the Lord and live for Him and yet life just gets more difficult.
- Sadly that is the case for many today. They have heard the good news that Jesus rose from the grave. Some may have placed their faith and trust in Him, but somehow their faith has been shattered. Life has become difficult and rather than rejoicing in a risen, living Lord, they have resigned to defeat. All they see is an empty tomb rather than a risen Lord. They have focused on death rather than life. We must look to Jesus instead of the trials.

III. A Morning of Discovery (5-7) – And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? [6] He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, [7] Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. The doubt and despair was quickly changed into discovery. Their hearts were burdened with care, wondering what would become of them. Had they believed in vain? Where would they go from here? How would they go on without Jesus? As they pondered their despair, they encountered two angels in shining garments.

- **Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen.** They had come to anoint a dead body, but this was not a place of death. It was a place of life, a place of victory and triumph over death. Jesus was alive! He had risen just as He said He would. There was no need for doubt and despair. The Lord had come forth out of the grave.

- Can you imagine the joy that filled their hearts as they began to understand that Jesus was alive? All of their doubts and fears began to vanish away as they realized that Jesus lived.
- I don't know where this morning finds you, but it is not a morning of despair and defeat. It is a morning of joy and victory. Our Lord has risen from the grave. He has conquered sin, death, and hell. He bore our sin and our shame on the cross. He defeated death and rose from the grave. We have hope this morning in a risen, living Lord.
- I have not come today with a heavy heart. I have come to worship my Lord and thank Him for providing forgiveness and life. The Lord is no longer in the grave. We have not met to remember the life of one who was, we have met to worship One who is!
- Have you discovered Jesus in your life? Are you aware that He lives today? There is hope because Jesus lives!

I. A Morning of Doubt (1)

II. A Morning of Despair (2-4)

III. A Morning of Discovery (5-7)

IV. A Morning of Determination (8-10) – *And they remembered his words, [9] And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. [10] It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.* Isn't it amazing how quickly things can change? These women are no longer filled with doubt and unbelief. They maybe didn't fully understand all that they had seen and heard, but they were beginning to realize that the Lord was alive. They had witnessed the empty tomb and they were determined to tell the disciples and the others that Jesus was alive! They began to proclaim and make known that Jesus had risen and the tomb was empty.

- I pray that our hearts will be renewed in faith today. We are living in some difficult times. The world around us is seeking a solution for its problems. Lives are in turmoil, people are desperate for some good news. We have the good news of the glorious gospel. Jesus Christ the Lord lives. He rose from the grave and has provided the means of salvation for all who will come to Him by faith.
- May we find that same determination that these women had to proclaim and make known the truth of the gospel. No doubt we all have friends and loved ones who need to hear of Jesus. As we celebrate His resurrection, we must be mindful of those who have no hope in the Lord. We cannot keep the news of Jesus locked up within our hearts or within these walls. We must tell the world that Jesus Christ died, rose, and lives to save lost sinners!

I. A Morning of Doubt (1)

II. A Morning of Despair (2-4)

III. A Morning of Discovery (5-7)

IV. A Morning of Determination (8-10)

V. A Morning of Denial (11) – *And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.* It didn't take long for these women to face opposition. As they returned to those who should have believed, they were faced with doubt and unbelief. Their words were viewed as *idle tales*, literally as "*nonsense, ridiculous talk, or wild imagination.*" They had heard Jesus proclaim that He would rise again and they did not believe. This has the idea that "*they kept on in unbelief.*" There were those who refused to believe.

- The same is true in our day. There are those who refuse to believe. You may be here this morning and you just will not believe. I know that the gospel message is hard to receive. Who would believe that the Son of God would give up the splendor of heaven, come to earth as a man, suffer the rejection, shame, and cruelty at the hands of sinful men, willingly go to a cross for our sins, die there, and rise again from the grave. It is something that can only be received by faith. In ourselves we cannot believe, but through the grace of our Lord, by faith we can.
- Where do you stand today? Have you accepted the fact that Jesus lives or are you still in denial?

VI. A Morning of Decision (12) – *Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.* (Illus. the life of Peter.) He had to come to terms with all of this. Peter had to view the empty tomb and decide for himself. The same is true for each of us today. I can't choose for you. You must decide what you will do with Jesus. Just being in church today isn't enough. You must trust Him as Saviour and Lord. Have you done that?