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“But What Did He Say?”

Luke 24:1–5 (NKJV)

Rich Saunders Jr. | Year 1 Month 4 Week 1

Luke 24:1–5 (NKJV)

- 1 *“Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.*
- 2 *But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.*
- 3 *Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*
- 4 *And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.*
- 5 *Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead?’”*

Theme

Devotion without alignment, anxiety about what God already resolved, and searching in expired places are all symptoms of the same problem: we forgot what He said.

Big Idea

The resurrection was not the problem. Forgetting what Jesus said was. You cannot build your life on what you’ve experienced if it contradicts what He declared.

Introduction

Luke 24 opens with a powerful contradiction. The women are in the right place at the right time, coming for the right person. But they came with the wrong expectation.

They showed up with spices. Not because they didn’t love Jesus. But because they expected death to still have the final word.

They were sincere... but they were still wrong. While they were preparing for burial, Jesus had already fulfilled His promise. And the angels interrupt the entire moment with one question:

“Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

But underneath that question is another one:

But what did He say?

The problem wasn't that Jesus didn't move. The problem was, they forgot what He said. And if we're honest, this is where a lot of believers are living right now. We love Him. We show up. We serve. But we are still building our expectations around what we've experienced... instead of what He said.

Verse 1

This was not resurrection behavior. This was burial behavior.

Jewish burial customs often involved wrapping the body with linen and aromatic spices as an act of honor, reverence, and burial care.

They were not going to celebrate a risen Savior. They were going to serve a dead one. Their presence shows devotion, but the spices reveal their expectation. They loved Him enough to come. But they did not believe Him enough to expect resurrection.

You can be faithful in your movement and still misaligned in your expectation.

A lot of people come to church with spices in their spirit:

- Prepared for survival
- Prepared for grief
- Prepared for maintenance
- Prepared to manage what died
- But not prepared for God to do exactly what He said

They were carrying evidence of love, but also evidence of unbelief.

Verse 2

A miracle happens here that gets missed.

Before they arrive, the obstacle is already moved.

The women were coming to perform a task they could not complete on their own. In the parallel account in Mark 16:3, they were asking, "Who will roll away the stone for us?"

That means they were headed toward a problem they already knew they could not solve. Yet they still kept walking.

Sometimes obedience moves before understanding does.

They did not yet have resurrection faith, but they still had enough devotion to keep moving toward Jesus. And when they arrived, God had already handled the barrier.

They were prepared for a body. They were not prepared for an open tomb.

God had already moved what they were still worried about on the way there.

Verse 3**The danger of approaching God with outdated assumptions.**

They enter the tomb expecting to find Jesus' body, but He is not there. This is the collision between human expectation and divine fulfillment. The empty tomb is not just proof of resurrection. It is proof that their assumptions were behind the purposes of God.

They expected something to remain that God had already transformed.

They were looking for confirmation of death in a place where God had already declared life. Some people keep searching old spaces for what God has already moved beyond. They are still trying to find:

- Life in dead places
- Answers in expired seasons
- Jesus in the last form they understood Him

They went into the tomb with a plan, but resurrection had already interrupted it.

Verse 4**We expect a praise moment, but being perplexed prevents a praise.**

The women are confused, and angelic messengers appear. "Greatly perplexed" carries the idea of being at a loss, confused, mentally pulled in different directions.

They were not shouting yet. They were confused first. Before resurrection becomes celebration, it often becomes disruption.

When God moves beyond your expectation, your first response may not be praise. It may be disorientation.

Heaven often has to interpret what earth cannot process. They were standing inside evidence of resurrection and still did not understand what they were seeing. Just because God is moving does not mean people immediately know how to interpret the movement.

Resurrection will confuse you if your expectations are still disciplined by loss.

Verse 5**The angels confront the women's assumption with a question.**

The issue was not merely that Jesus was gone. The issue was that they were searching in the wrong category. They were treating the living Christ like a dead man.

This question is bigger than the tomb. It is a question about mindset.

Why are you looking for life...

- in dead expectations?
- in buried seasons?
- in what God already left?
- in categories that no longer fit what He has done?

Resurrection is not only the raising of Jesus. It is the collapse of every framework that assumed death had the final word.

Their problem was not lack of sincerity. Their problem was that they were sincere in the wrong direction.

You can be looking passionately and still be looking in the wrong place. Pain made them prepare for death when promise had already announced life.

But what did He say?

Conclusion

Where are you still searching in a space God has already vacated? What expectation, narrative, or pattern are you still returning to that He has already moved past?

The Core of the Resurrection Tension

They came to honor what died... but Jesus had already stepped into what lived. The disconnect wasn't power. It wasn't presence. It wasn't even proximity. It was memory. They forgot what He said.

What are you preparing for that contradicts what He said?

What are you expecting that doesn't align with what He promised?

What are you still searching for in places He already left?

Resurrection is not just about Jesus getting up. It is about you no longer being governed by what tried to bury you.

The Only Question That Matters

Not what you feel. Not what it looks like. Not what you've been through.

But what did He say?

And whatever He said... that is the only reality you are authorized to build your life on.

“Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

Luke 24:5 (NKJV)