



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

April 17, 2022: Easter Sunday Remember to Remember That the Stone Is Rolled Away

Luke 24:1-12 (NIV 11)

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. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In 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? ⁶He 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.’” ⁸Then they remembered his words.

⁹When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹²Peter, 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. ¹

1. The women went to the tomb expecting the stone to be in its place. How does all of life change if that stone was still in its place?

If the stone is still in its place, then Jesus is proved a liar. Then Death is victorious and life itself is merely waiting to die. Then we are still in our sins, and life is void of love and truth and joy and peace and hope. If Jesus was still dead behind that stone, then everything is lost.

2. It's a common misconception in Easter art that Jesus is pictured walking out of the tomb, once the stone had been rolled away. For what purpose did the angel actually roll away the stone?

The angel was not rolling away the stone to let Jesus out, as if he had risen and was waiting in there. The angel rolled the stone away to reveal that Jesus wasn't in there, that he had already risen. On the third day, Jesus descended, body and soul, into hell where he made proclamation to the devil and the imprisoned spirits of his victory (1 Peter 3:19). The Apostles Creed might lead you into thinking that Jesus descended into hell on Saturday or sometime before his body rose on Sunday because of the order it comes in the creed. Not the case. Jesus rose from the dead, body and soul on the morning of the third day. Then there was an earthquake and the angel rolled away the stone.

3. If Jesus has destroyed the “shroud of death that enfolds all people” (Isaiah 25:7), why does this world still feel so bleak and full of pain and death?

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ. (2 Cor. 4:4) Because of this much of the world still live in darkness beneath the veil, even though Jesus has conquered it with his Easter victory. The devil also spends his time trying to re-cover-up our eyes with the

¹ [The New International Version](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Lk 24:1–12.

remnants of the veil of tears and the shroud of death. Because we are weak and sinful, he often succeeds, and we end up living through troubles as if Jesus hasn't risen from the dead. Daily the Holy Spirit must take off our "Death-colored-glasses" so that we can see clearly the reality of what Christ has done!

4. For what reasons was it hard for the women and the disciples to remember Jesus' prediction of not only his suffering and death but also his resurrection? Why is it hard for us to remember his death and resurrection in the midst of this world.?

The women had watched the horror of seeing Jesus, their teacher, their leader, their Messiah, and for Mary, her son, flogged and crucified. The trauma that they had lived through in the past few days would not allow anyone to think clearly. For the disciples as well, they were living with not only the trauma but also the guilt of deserting Jesus. Grief has a way of shutting our eyes to the promises of God. That makes it so hard for us as well every time we suffer in this life. The circumstances of a terrible situation make us fixate on pain, rather than on resurrection truths.

5. God sent the angels to remind the women to remember what Jesus said. God sent the women to the disciples to remind them what Jesus had said about his resurrection. God sends us to remind the people in our lives of the empty tomb. What are the obstacles that keep us from running to tell people? How do we overcome them?

God chooses to work through messengers. First, a messenger was sent to tell the good news before Jesus appeared to anyone. God continues to send us as messengers. But we let our insecurities about knowing enough or "ruining" a relationship get in the way of sharing freely our faith. We sometimes also forget that we are listening first in order to hear opportunities to respond with the gospel, rather than making a "canned" presentation of the gospel. We let busyness distract us from the urgency of the mission. Then sometimes we also let leisure time for ourselves be an excuse for us to not say anything. We overcome these obstacles by building our confidence in the

word, building relationships with people, and taking the first step, a leap of faith, trusting in God's promise to be with us as we witness.

6. The prophet Isaiah prophesied, "**God will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from the earth. (Isaiah 25:7,8).** What parts of this prophecy have been fulfilled by the resurrection? What parts are waiting to be fully realized?

In Jesus' triumphant resurrection from the dead, he has destroyed the sting of death and swallowed up death forever (1 Corinthians 15). He has destroyed the veil and removed his people's disgrace. It is the objective fact that Jesus has taken away the sins of all people. The fullness of this reality will not be realized however until we reach the culmination of our salvation on the last day. Then Jesus will return and remove every tear from our eyes forever! On the last day, Jesus' Easter victory will be fully realized for all who believe in him! Their pain will be gone and their bodies glorified forever!

7. What does Jesus' Easter victory ensure about each of these things: your sin, your life, your baptism, your reception of the Lord's Supper, your death, and your eternal wellbeing?
 - Sin- Paid For! Removed! As far as the east is from the West. Remembered no more!
 - Baptism- It's powerful! Baptism saves you by the Resurrection of Christ (1 Peter 3:21).
 - Life- The resurrection and your baptism empower your life. We were buried with Christ into death in order that just as Christ was raised, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)
 - Receiving the Lord's Supper- The resurrection is proof that Jesus sacrifice of his body and blood provided full atonement for our sins. It bought us back from death. In him we have redemption

through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.
(Ephesians 1:7)

- Death- Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even though he dies and the one who believes in me will never die!
- Your eternal wellbeing- In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)