

PHPCA SunSch 4-12-2020

Luke 24:1-12 – The Empty Tomb

- I. The women bring spices to the tomb (v1)

1 But on the first day of the week,

at early dawn,

they went to the tomb,

taking the spices they had prepared.

Simplified Chronology of Jesus' Passion

-Jewish day was measured from evening of one day to evening of the next

1st day Thursday night to Friday night –

Last Supper Thursday night

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Jesus appears before authorities and condemned

Jesus crucified in the 3rd hour (9am Friday morning)

Darkness over the land from 6th to 9th hour (12-3pm Friday afternoon),

Jesus death (after 3pm and before 6pm (sunset) on Friday

Joseph of Arimathea takes body of Jesus and prepares it quickly for burial before the sabbath started (before 6pm on Friday),

Wrapping in linen shroud

Use of costly spices (one hundred Roman litra ~75 pounds),

Gamaliel, respected elder, buried with 40 litras

1 litra for the average person

Placed in a tomb, in a garden, near Golgotha before the sabbath (before 6pm)

2nd day Friday night to Saturday night

Jesus lays in the tomb

Observant Jews would observe the Sabbath until just after sunset (3 stars appear)

3rd day Saturday night onward

Women go to the tomb early in the morning ("still dark" John 20:1, "sun had risen" Mk 16:1)

o Luke's narrative focus

-there are many vignettes from the gospels for this sequence of events

-no attempt at a harmony of the Gospels here, but emphasize Luke's focus

-like many eye account witnesses, different perspectives bring out different details

-the women were coming to finish the work of caring for the body of Christ

these were the women who helped Joseph of Arimathea Luke 23:55-56

spices "had been prepared", so this points to the likely purchase of the spices and ointment BEFORE the sabbath (sounds like they were finishing the job)

-there was no anticipation of an imminent resurrection

-care for the body did indicate some hope of a future bodily resurrection

-Jewish customs took great care to bury bodies with dignity, disgraceful not to

II. The women's reaction as they discover the empty tomb (v2-5a)

2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3

but when they went in

they did not find the body

of the Lord Jesus.

4 While they were perplexed about this,

    behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.

    5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground,

o      At least 3 different reactions

-first perplexity (v4a) about the empty tomb

-second shock - "behold," "dazzling" (v4b) about the "men"

-third fear and reverence (v5a) in reaction to the presence of "angels"

o      Progression of the reactions

-anticipated the sad but loving service of preparing the body of Christ for the afterlife

-recognition of the heavenly messengers

-dazzled by the appearance

-recognition that these were divine messengers and fear and obeisance

III.      The Message of the "Men" (v5b-7)

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6

    He is not here,

    but has risen.

    Remember how he told you,

    while he was still in Galilee, 7

    that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men

    and be crucified

    and on the third day rise."

o Elements of the Angels' message

-question and a rebuke

Seeking the living among the dead

He is not here

He is risen

-calling to remembrance Jesus' words (Luke 9:22, 18:33)

Deliverance into the hands of sinful men

Crucifixion

Rising on the third day

NOT 3 24 hour periods and THEN resurrection >> that would imply sometime Monday afternoon

On the third day

IV. The Testimony of the Women (v8-11)

8 And they remembered his words, 9 and

returning from the tomb

they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and

Joanna and

Mary the mother of James and

the other women with them

who told these things to the apostles,

11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and

they did not believe them.

- o The obedience of the women to the Angel's command to remember and testify
- o Luke honors those who gave testimony of Jesus' resurrection
- Mary Magdalen – prominent in all resurrection accounts
- Joanna
- Mary, the mother of James – mother of the Apostle of the “other James”
- Other women with them – committed to supporting the ministry of Jesus (Luke 23:49)
- o Christian tradition and practice of honoring holy women
- referenced in the epistles (e.g., Col. 4:15 “the church that meets in her (Nympha) house”)
- veneration of Mary, even by people such as John Calvin
- prominence of holy orders of women
- o Women were disadvantaged in the time of Christ, but also sometimes very powerful
- o The Reaction of the Apostles – Disrespect and Disbelief

#### V. One Apostle Believes the Testimony (v12)

12 But Peter rose and

ran to the tomb;

stooping and looking in,

he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and

he went home

marveling at what had happened.

- o Peter's reaction
- especially perceptive among Jesus' disciples
- “ran”
- looked and saw for himself
- marvelled