



Touching Lives  
with James Merritt



**SERMON SINGLES**

# The Day Death Died

Luke 24:1-12

## INTRODUCTION

Good Friday was the day Jesus died, but Sunday was the day that death died. Some women came to the tomb that day to anoint Jesus' dead body with spices, which was a Jewish custom. Little did they know they wouldn't need spices that day. Even though they found the tomb, they didn't find the body. Nothing has ever fascinated humanity more deeply than the question of whether there is life after death. If it interests you at all, and you have never done your homework, then the subject is not finished until you read what happened on that Sunday morning. As we go back and study the account of the resurrection of Jesus, we are going to see one way we can respond (in fact the way most people respond), but then we are going to see the two ways we should respond.

## KEY POINTS

### 1. It Is Natural To Be Perplexed By The Resurrection

The women in today's key passage were perplexed when they found the empty tomb. Perplexed is a very strong word. It literally means "to be completely baffled, confused, not knowing what to think or where to turn." Their heads were spinning, and I don't blame them.

When you read the story in all of the gospels, you have angels sitting on rocks talking to people like it is an everyday thing. You have burial clothing folded up as if it has been to the dry cleaners, laying neatly in the grave. You have Roman soldiers, the equivalent of Navy Seals, scared stiff because they say they saw an angel that rolled the stone away. You have an empty tomb without a body in it and with no one having any good reason to steal the body. The last thing on your mind is you are going to see a freshly crucified Jesus taking a walk around the park!

That being said, it's natural to be perplexed by the resurrection. It's not a normal occurrence. It's miraculous. But even if we acknowledge that, it doesn't mean we have to stay perplexed.

## NOTES

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**2. It Is Necessary To Be Persuaded By The Resurrection**

The majority of the world does not believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. They didn't in Peter's day. They don't today, and they won't tomorrow. I am convinced that most people have rejected the resurrection without ever carefully researching the evidence for it. Because if they did take the time to do the research, they would realize that there is simply no way you can bypass the subject of Jesus' resurrection.

That being said, we as followers of Jesus also need to do the work of reading about Jesus' resurrection and then choosing to believe it is true. It's not enough to say, "Oh my parents told me Jesus rose from the dead, so I believe it" or "My pastor says Jesus rose from the dead, so I believe it." No, we need to be diligent in our study of Scripture and our continued development of our trust in God so that we are fully persuaded by the resurrection.

**3. It Is Normal To Be Proclaiming The Resurrection**

It is all starting to come together for these women. When they first went to that tomb it was still dark. Now they are standing in the bright light of the Son physically, but also mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. They are looking back at all the works that Jesus did. The angels reminded them of the works that Jesus said where He predicted over and over He would be raised from the dead, and now you've got these angelic witnesses from heaven themselves. A little bit later in the day, two of these women are going to take a walk with Jesus. Now, they believe what Jesus said which led them to believe who Jesus was.

So, what do they do next? They began to tell their story. Nobody told them to tell their story. Nobody trained them to tell their story or twisted their arms and made them tell their story. It was just normal to begin to tell people about that empty tomb and that risen Lord.

I want to say this as strongly as I can. If you claim to be a follower of the risen Lord, if you say you truly believe that Jesus Christ is alive and risen from the dead, you don't have to share that with anybody; you just normally want to share that with everybody. If you believe in the resurrection, and you have been blessed by the resurrection, you will have a burden to share the resurrection.

**NOTES**

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**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. Would you say that you're perplexed by the resurrection? Why or why not?
2. When was the last time you proclaimed the gospel to someone?
3. Who has God placed in your life that you could be intentional about sharing the gospel with this Easter season?

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