

**Sunday School Lesson, Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, & Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**by Pastor Dwight Benoit**

**Spring Quarter Lesson ~ March, April, and May 2023**

**General Theme: “JESUS Calls Us!”**

**Unit I, “Called from the Margins of Society” (The Gospels)**

**Unit II, “Experiencing the Resurrection” (The Gospels 2—Luke’ Gospel, Chp. 24, the Women & Men disciples; & 2—John’ Gospel, the Disciples and Peter reinstatement)**

**Unit III, “The Birth of The Church” (Acts of The HOLY SPIRIT)**

**Lesson Subject: Amazing Encounters**

**Encounter**, Biblically, bespeaks a *personal relationship* with **JESUS CHRIST**. It’s about entering into this *relationship* through *real, authentic experience* and *recognizing JESUS’ Presence* in *your* lives and in *others*!

**\*Key Word, ‘Resurrection,’** *anastasis* (an-as’-tas-is), raising up, transformed to *Life* after *Death*. [to stand up (*stand again*). **Resurrection** is the foundation of **CHRIST**ianity and future guarantee of *ALL* who *Believe* and *Receive JESUS CHRIST*—*Believers* will experience a *Second Resurrection*]

**Text: Luke 24: 1-12**

**Lesson Topics:**

- **Searching the Wrong Place (Luke 24: 1-9)**
- **Failing to Believe (Luke 24: 10-12)**

**Amazing Encounters**

-- V. 2, Stone... “...they found the ‘stone’ rolled away...” Note, **Encounter**—this ‘stone’ was sealed by *Roman authority*, and had *Roman soldiers* set apart to watch it. Yet it was rolled away!

[The great block-stone rolled *in The Way of CHRIST* and **HIS (GOD) purpose**, by *enemies* of **GOD**.

Such ‘stones’ are easily removed when **The Hand of “The Angel of The LORD”** is laid on it

(Matthew 28: 2).] “**ROCK of Ages, ROCK of Ages**, cleft for me, let me hide myself *in THEE!*”

Malachi 3: 2, “But who can endure the day of **HIS** coming? And who will be able to stand when **HE** appears? For HE will be like a refiner’s fire and like cleansing lye.” [Like one **WHO** burns away the dross in order to refine gold, **GOD through JESUS** burns away all evil within us!]

“I Love you, O **LORD**, my *Strength*. **The LORD** is my **ROCK**, my *Fortress*, and my *Deliverer*; my **GOD** is my **ROCK**, in **WHOM** I take *Refuge*. **HE** is my *Shield* and *The Horn* of my *Salvation*, my *Stronghold*.” (Psalm 18: 1, 2)

--V. 3, Grave... “...they found not the body of **The LORD JESUS**...” Note, **Encounter**—Here, **JESUS** was buried; But now, the tomb is empty. The evidence: there lies ‘the linen that wrapped **HIM**;’ ‘in the *same place* and in the *same form* as when the body was *within* it—but empty;’

**JESUS** was not in the *grave clothes*—I Corinthians 5: 17, “Therefore is any be in **CHRIST**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become (becoming) new.”

It was quite clear from the position of the clothes that no one had stolen HIM away.

I Corinthians 15: 55a, “O grave, where is thy victory?”

--V. 4, Vision... "...behold two men stood by them in shining garments..." Note, **Encounter**— In *following* [JESUS into the tomb—are where JESUS was laid] they were privileged to see **The Glorified Ones.**] Point: every place, even the dark and lonesome grave, is hallowed (made **HOLY**) and *illuminated*-brighten, made clearer), when JESUS has been there.

**Q.** How do you feel about Yourself?

[Since JESUS came into my heart! What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought. Since JESUS came into my heart; I have light in my soul for which long I have sought, Since JESUS came into my heart!] **The Glory of the Resurrected Life** is first seen in the grave of JESUS! To be "*buried with CHRIST* is to be *raised with HIM* in newness of life." (Romans 6: 4)

--Vss. 5-8, Message... "v. 6, **HE** is not here; but is risen [or Resurrected: raised up!] ...

" Note, **Encounter**—*All the powers* of earth and Hell had (have) failed to keep JESUS in the grave! I Corinthians 15: 55b, "O death, where is your sting?"

"...but is risen [or Resurrected: raised up!] ..." *All the authority* of Heaven has been given **HIM**— Matthew 28: 18, "And JESUS came near and said to them, "**All authority has been given to ME in heaven and on earth.**"

These **Angels** *remembered* the words that JESUS had spoken, while the disciples had *forgotten* them (v. 6). [It's easy to *forget* what we do not believe!]

--Vss. 10, 11, Doubt, Disbelieving... "...they believed them not..." Note, **Encounter**—

**The LORD HIMSELF** had told them that **HE** would *rise again* on *the third day* (Matthew 16: 21, 17: 22-23, 20: 17-19...Mark 8: 31, 9: 30-31, 10: 33, 34... Luke 9: 21, 22, 43-45, 18: 31-34).

The two women declared to them that the grave was empty, yet they "*believed not.*"

**The TRUTH** about the Resurrection of **CHRIST** is "soul-resurrection" **TRUTH.**

**Q.** Why was I (you) slow to believe?

--V. 12, Investigation... "Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulcher..." (John was with him— John 20: 8... *the old man* outran *the younger*) Note, **Encounter**— Peter did the right thing.

[If you do not believe a message, investigate it.] Peter was great proof...

Romans 10: 17, "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about **CHRIST.**" Peter "*departed wondering* in himself..."

Wondering, thaumazo (thou-mad'-zo), *wonder* at; be *amazed* (marvel), i. e. astonished out of one's senses; awestruck, to make *one soul-search*! Numbers 32: 23, "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against **The LORD**: and be sure your sin will find you out."

Point: Numbers 32 teaches about 3 tribes (Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh) who did not want to cross the Jordan (Transjordan Tribes) into Canaan but stay and live East of the Jordan. Moses declares this **TRUTH**, just in case their motives was not to help the other 9 tribes conquer Canaan. *Compelling repentance* and *turning away* from sin... Sin will certainly find the sinner out, sooner or later... Find sin out before sin finds you out to your confusion and destruction... (I John 1: 9)