

**Easter 2008  
A Tale from the Crypt  
Luke 24:36-48**

March 23, 2008  
Valley Church

Introduction

One of the things you love to do when you go camping? Fishing, hiking, gather around the campfire at night and roast marshmallows... and then just before you get up go to sleep... someone tells a scary story...

Frankenstein, The Mummy, Dracula, or Scooby Doo... There is something both terrifying and fascinating about the unknown, the dark, the

The vast number of human attempts to explain the nature of life after death is an amazing testimony to the fact that mankind desperately longs to know the answer to this question... "What happens to me when I die?"

That's why I'm calling this sermon "A Tale from the Crypt". Turn in your Bibles to Luke 24.

Three parts to Luke 24 - the women, the two on road to Emmaus, the disciples

1. It was a time of **FEAR**. v. 36-38

**36 While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you."**

a. Startled and Frightened. V. 37

**37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit.**

In the NIV it says, "a ghost"...

Didn't these guys know that there are no such things as "ghosts"?

**Matthew 14: 25-27 (NIV) - During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. (Witchcraft/divination 2 Kings 9:22; Is.47:9,12; Micah 5:12; Nahum 3:4; 1 Sam. 15:23)**

Our problem is that we are sort of used to the idea that someone would rise from the grave... Not to put too strong a point on it... but think of how you would respond!

b. Troubled and Doubting. V. 38

**38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"**

What do you think was going through their minds just before Jesus had walked in? We know they were

- afraid - Matt. 28:10
  - cowering inside doors shut for fear of the Jews - John 20:19
- thinking “they killed our master and teacher and now they’ll come after us!”

- doubtful - Matt 28:17
  - Didn’t believe the report of the women (Luke 24:11) “Nonsense!”
  - unbelieving and with hard hearts - Mark 16:14
- Thinking “We’ve just wasted the last three years of our lives!”

#### **APPLICATION:**

Are you ever frightened, troubled, or doubting? We did a series called “Where is God when I’m... afraid, hurting, angry...”

Ex: Daddy, What do adults have nightmares about?

Jesus answers their fears and doubts with facts....

#### 2. It was a time of **FACTS**. v. 39-43

a. Hands and Feet = IDENTITY

**39a" See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself;**

These were the hands that had washed their feet and broken their bread. These were the feet they had followed on the dusty roads of Galilee. They knew these hands and feet...

b. Touch and See = REALITY

**39b touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.**

Doubting Thomas - until I put my hands in his side...

c. Fish to Eat = HUMANITY

**41 While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, " Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; 43 and He took it and ate it before them.**

#### 3. It was a time of **FAITH**. v. 44-48

Jesus teaches the disciples -

44 Now He said to them, " These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

(just like in 24:27 - Beginning with Moses and with all the prophets...)

a. SUFFER (...and DIE)

46a and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer...

Isaiah 53:3 "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

"He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him."  
~ John 1:11

Isaiah 53:4-5 "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Luke 23:33 "And when they came to the place call The Skull , there they crucified him..."

The old testament detailed ahead of time how he would die. He had been telling them this all along but they didn't believe him...

b. RISE on THE THIRD DAY

46b and rise again from the dead the third day,

Jesus said that he would rise from the dead. He said, for example, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19; Mark 14:58).

Islam does not make the claim that Mohammed is God.

Mormonism does not make the claim that Joseph Smith is God.

Some have claimed that Elvis is back from the dead, or that Mao will rise some day...

Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism do not depend upon the actual historical existence of their founders for their beliefs to make sense...

What is truly frightening?

Five things that are true if there is no resurrection from the dead. 1 Cor. 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead,..

- a. Christ is not raised  
**not even Christ has been raised;**  
**16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;**
- b. Your Message is useless  
**14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain,**  
 The word Kenon means “empty”. With no substance, nothing there... -  
 absurd
- c. Your Faith is futile = you are still in your sins  
**14... your faith also is vain.**  
**17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless (literally**  
**profitless) you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have**  
**fallen asleep in Christ have perished.**
- d. Your Witness is false  
**15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because**  
**we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise,**  
**if in fact the dead are not raised.**  
 You and aren't only dead wrong, we're leading other people down the  
 wrong road.
- e. Your Life is hopeless  
**19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most**  
**to be pitied.**  
 Worthy of pity, pitiable, full of misery, wretched, miserable  
 vain, empty, pointless, useless, insignificant--“Pitiful”  
 “...the most miserable people in the world.” - NLT
- In 1 Cor 15:32 Paul quotes Isaiah 22:13-  
**If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE**  
**DIE.**

**The resurrection of Christ is the center of the Christian Faith. Without  
 the bodily resurrection of Christ, Christianity is worthless.**

The third lesson on Faith

- c. REPENTANCE and FORGIVENESS OF SINS  
**47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in**  
**His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 "You are**  
**witnesses of these things.**

Missions conference

**Conclusion:**