

RESURRECTION MORNING: LUKE 24

PERCEPTION OR PROMISE

PROCESSING OUR PRESENT REALITY

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. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In 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? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words.

LUKE 24.1-8

Often we process a present reality
on the basis of what we perceive
and not on the basis of what God promised.

Often we process *(they went to the tomb)*
a present problem (or reality) *(the stone needs to be moved)*
on the basis of what we perceive *(Jesus is dead; life is all wrong)*
not on the basis of what Jesus has promised *(meet me in Galilee)*.

- ◆ The women went to the tomb on the assumption of death, not life.
- ◆ The women went to the tomb on the assumption of what they had experienced, not remembering what Jesus had promised.
- ◆ The women went to the tomb, feeling the grief of their experience and not the hope of what Jesus had told them.
- ◆ The women went to the tomb according to their perception of reality (Jesus died; the stone is heavy), forgetting faith in his promise.

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As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’ ”

MARK 16.5-7

- ◆ Like these women, we are often looking for Jesus in the wrong place. We need to look for him, and expect to see him, in the place where he has promised to meet us.



He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 TIMOTHY 1.9-10

In his letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul tells us how we should respond to our perception of present realities in light of Christ's resurrection and promises:

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, ⁽¹⁾ set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

⁽²⁾ Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life [now], appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

(the true reality and promise that should be our dominating perspective)

⁽³⁾ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature . . .

COLOSSIANS 3.1-5