

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 Mar 2021..... Luke 10-13.....Neighbors?
- 2) 14 Mar..... Luke 14-16.....Celebrate?
- 3) 21 Mar..... Luke 17-18.....Worthy?
- 4) 28 Mar..... Luke 19:28-48.....Worshipped
- 5) **04 Apr (Easter)..... Luke 24:1-12.....Resurrected**
- 6) 11 Apr..... Luke 19:1-27.....Sinners?
- 7) 18 Apr..... Luke 20-21.....Cornerstone
- 8) 25 Apr..... Luke 22:1-30.....Remembered
- 9) 02 May..... Luke 22:31-53.....Willing
- 10) 09 May..... Luke 22:54-71.....Denied
- 11) 16 May..... Luke 23.....Sacrificed
- 12) 23 May..... Luke 24:13-35.....Revealed
- 13) 30 May..... Luke 24:36-53.....Commissions

INTRODUCTION

- If the Resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith, why would so few details be provided in the Gospels? And why 1st appear to women?

Passage	Comments
Matthew 28:1-4	<p>Struck with Awe at the Tomb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Initial female visitors to the tomb early in the morning included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mary Magdalene – was healed of 7 demons and supported the Lord's work financially Luke 8:2-3 ♦ “the other Mary” – the wife of Cleophas/Alpheus, the mother of James the Less (Junior) and Joseph, who theologians suspect was an aunt of Jesus, possible sister to Joseph, Jesus’ step-dad, making Mary’s sons, James the Less & Joseph, His cousins (see Gill’s commentary)
Matthew 28:5-8	<p>Come and See</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unnamed Angel is given the task to spook the guards, who is probably a battle-seasoned Roman troop, <i>“who had been used to terrible sights in the field of battle; were men of courage, and fearless of danger; and yet were seized with a panic, and every limb of them shook and trembled at the sight of the angel, for fear he was come as an executioner of divine vengeance upon them”</i> – <i>John Gill Commentary</i> • The Angel also had the task of calming the fears of the women, giving them a guided tour of the empty tomb, and sending them on to the disciples
Mark 16:1-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Magdalene and friends visits the tomb to prepare Jesus’ body for formal burial, but they flee the scene (This could be Mary’s 2nd trip to the tomb)
John 20:1-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Mary M. was at the tomb while it was still dark and after seeing the stone moved away and assuming the worst, she ran to fetch the men • vv11-18. Jesus waited to reveal Himself to her while she was alone. Why? Was she special?
Luke 24:1-12	<p>Resurrection Morning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. The stone was rolled away to allow the women to walk in, not for Jesus to walk out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mary Magdalene – was healed of 7 demons and supported the Lord's work financially Luke 8:2-3 ♦ Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, also supported the Lord's work financially Luke 8:3 ♦ Aunt Mary, the wife of Cleophas/Alpheus, the mother of James the less (Junior) & Joses/Joseph ♦ Salome, the wife of Zebedee, the mother of James and Johncp Mt 4:21; 20:20; 27:56; Mk 15:40 ♦ “The other women” – possibly Martha, Susanna, but probably not Mary, the mother of Jesus • v12. Peter & John then ran to the tomb ... John 20:3-10

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Why would Jesus first appear to women and not to even His closest associates, Peter, James, and John?
 - ♦ We can only speculate that women, who were not considered to be credible witnesses in a court of law in the 1st Century society, added credibility to the historical reality of Jesus’ resurrection
 - ♦ If the apostles had fabricated the resurrection, they certainly would not have written that women witnessed it first.
 - ♦ As the saying goes, “You can’t make this stuff up.” God truly thought of everything from every angle.
- What more proof would be nice to have on the Lord’s Resurrection?
 - Let it have happened in broad daylight with 1000’s nearby
 - Credible media outlets reporting (e.g., CNN, Fox News, etc.)
 - Television footage or other photographic documentation
 - More eyewitness accounts from friends and foes
 - Proclamation from God, Himself, with heavenly signs
 - Other substantiations: _____

[We may see such substantiations at His 2nd coming[Rev 19:11-21](#)]
- But would more people truly believe if we had more hard evidence for our Lord’s Resurrection? Yes | No | Maybe | Don’t Know
 - ♦ The answer is probably YES – more would believe!
 - ♦ Consider what Jesus said about Sodom, Tyre, & Sidon: They would have repented if they had witnessed the miracles performed in Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum [Lk 10:12-15](#)
- If, therefore, more people would believe in Jesus if there was more hard evidence on His Resurrection, why didn’t God provide it?
 - ♦ How much more hard evidence would be enough?
 - ♦ We also have to consider God’s ways are not our ways [Is 55:8-9](#)
 - ♦ ...and consider this: It was a good thing there were no TV cameras, cell phones, computers, radios, social media, and the internet around at that time. The resurrection story would’ve truly been twisted and distorted beyond imagination and recognition. God thinks of everything!
- One more consideration: God gives sufficient and credible evidence for people to reliably and confidently place their faith in Him, but not overwhelming evidence to force people to believe..... [Acts 1:3; 17:31](#)

NEXT WEEK: Luke 19:1-27. We should live in such a way we can hear those precious words from God, *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant: You have been faithful over a few things, I will make you a ruler over many things; enter into the joy of the Lord”* [Matt 5:21](#)

If Jesus was on earth today with COVID-19 concerns...

