

What Has Happened?

Luke 24: 1-35

Can you imagine showing up at the tomb – can you imagine the questions, the fear, the doubt...?

What has happened? Where is He? What have you done with HIM?

All very logical and rational questions. Perhaps you have questions today but you, my friends, are hesitant to ask. Perhaps I can ask them for you and try to answer them as well.

I. Why did Jesus Have to die?

- a. Well, I think this is a natural question to ask.
- b. The simple answer is – To pay for our sins!
- c. I'd like to ask each of you a few questions this morning:
 - i. Would you consider yourself a good person?
 - ii. Would God consider you a good person?
 - iii. Do you keep the 10 commandments?
 - iv. Have you ever told a lie?
 - v. Have you ever stolen something – even a pen or pencil at work or a file folder or piece of gum from a store when you were a child?
 - vi. Do you love the Lord God with all your heart, soul and mind?
 - vii. How about adultery – men this is for you – Christ said that if you look at a woman and have lustful thoughts then you have committed adultery.
 - viii. Have you ever coveted something that someone else has – good grades, a nice car, a dress, a position...?
 - ix. What about 'honoring your father and mother'?
- d. Well, it appears to me that we have a bunch of lying thieves who are covetous adulterers that do not honor their parents and therefore are going to live a short life...
- e. If you were to die today and stand before God – what would he say? Guilty! Will He let you into heaven? Why?
- f. He is a just God – he punishes liars, thieves, adulterers ...
 - i. Romans 3:23 says that 'the wages of sin is death'
 - ii. There has to be payment because HE is a just God! J
- g. But wait, someone has already paid the penalty... someone came and paid the fine – JESUS!

II. Where is Jesus?

- a. Why are you looking here? they were asked – but they couldn't quite grasp this. They were full of sorrow – they were scared and concerned. What will happen to me? they must have been asking.
- b. Jesus had told them that He would rise on the 3rd day but this was not something they could grasp – perhaps just like you today.
- c. Let's look at the next verses in Luke 24 beginning in vs. 13
- d. Jesus was right there with them but they didn't recognize HIM – He has been right with you as well. Do you recognize HIM?
- e. Is today your journey to Emmaus – are your eyes opened today?

III. So What?

- a. We need our penalty, our fine paid.
 - i. We need our record cleared, expunged.
 1. Etchasketch – gone forever
- b. Will you decide today to receive the gift?
 - i. Romans 6:23
 - ii. Ephesians 2:8, 9
- c. Romans 10:9 – confess today and 'be saved'!
- d. The Tomb is Empty –

“Little Philip, born with Down's syndrome, attended a third-grade Sunday School class with several eight-year-old boys and girls. Typical of that age, the children did not readily accept Philip with his differences, according to an article in Leadership magazine. But because of a creative teacher, they began to care about Philip and accept him as part of the group, though not fully. The Sunday after Easter the teacher brought Leggs pantyhose containers, the kind that look like large eggs. Each receiving one, the children were told to go outside on that lovely spring day, find some symbol for new life, and put it in the egg-like container. Back in the classroom, they would share their new-life symbols, opening the containers one by one in

surprise fashion. After running about the church property in wild confusion, the students returned to the classroom and placed the containers on the table. Surrounded by the children, the teacher began to open them one by one. After each one, whether flower, butterfly, or leaf, the class would ooh and ahh. Then one was opened, revealing nothing inside. The children exclaimed, "That's stupid. That's not fair. Somebody didn't do their assignment."

Philip spoke up, "That's mine."

"Philip, you don't ever do things right!" the student retorted. "There's nothing there!"

"I did so do it," Philip insisted. "I did do it. It's empty. The tomb was empty!"

Silence followed. From then on Philip became a full member of the class. He died not long afterward from an infection most normal children would have shrugged off. At the funeral this class of eight-year-olds marched up to the altar not with flowers, but with their Sunday school teacher, each to lay on it an empty pantyhose egg.