

When I go into a store and someone asks me, "Can I help you find what are you looking for? I almost always respond the same way. "No thanks. I am just looking."

I might be looking for something specific, but I really don't want them to bother me or help me. I wanna do it on my own. Sometimes I say it because I have no idea what I am looking for and I am just wandering around. Sometimes it really just means leave me alone.

This morning I am going to be like those store clerks. I want to ask you, What are you looking for in life? You might be tempted to respond the same way I respond. You might say that you know you're just looking.

But deep down every single one of us is searching for something. We might not even know what we are searching for. We might not be able to name it and identify it. But all of us in this life are looking for something. We are looking for a good life. We are looking for a life filled with joy and experiences. Or maybe we are looking for purpose. We feel like we're muddling through and we wish we could find something that would help make sense of our life. Maybe we are looking for meaningful relationships.

Maybe we're searching for the truth. Everywhere we look we're trying to figure out and discern in a world of conspiracies, fake news, and lies.

Maybe you're just looking to stay alive and make it to the next day. Life is too difficult. You can't even imagine trying to look for something.

All of us are looking for something. **And what all of us are looking for is found in the risen body of Jesus.** This is the Sunday, where we celebrate the fact and the belief that Jesus was truly, historically, and miraculously raised from the dead.

Turn with me in your Bibles to Luke 23:50-24:12

Point 1: Look for the Kingdom of God (v. 50-56).

All of us are looking for something.

But we should be looking for the Kingdom of God.

Because the Kingdom of God is where the good life is found.

At the beginning of our story there is a man looking for the kingdom.

Verse 50, **"Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man,"**

This man is named Joseph.

This town is near Ramah, where Jacob's wife Rachel was buried.

He is a member of the religious elite and one of the Pharisees.

But he is not a hypocrite or a legalist.

He is good and righteous.

And he seems to be a follower of Jesus.

Verse 51, **"who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God."**

So it appears that he is on the council that killed Jesus, but he was not on board with the decision.

Other places in the Gospel, tell us, the council all decided to kill Jesus.

So we don't know if he was in the room, but came out voted. This is the only voice of dissent.

Or maybe they knew that he was sympathetic to Jesus, and so he was not invited, or made aware that they were meeting when they made that decision .

One of the keys to understanding Joseph and the story of resurrection in Luke, is in the description of Joseph.

He is described as someone looking for the kingdom of God.

This is totally different than our other member of the council were

They were looking for power he was searching for truth.

They assumed that they spoke for God, but Joseph tried to hear God's voice.

He was looking for the good life.

He wanted to know what it would be like if God's kingdom fully here on earth.

And he wanted the kingdom to come, even if the kingdom didn't look like how he expected .

He was willing to consider Jesus.
He was willing to listen to Jesus.
Even though everything Jesus was preached was against him.
Even though Jesus challenged his conception of reality.
Even though it would mean that he was wrong, and that his whole life was going to have to change
He was still willing to look.

Now we don't know we're not if he was a disciple of Jesus.
He may have been a secret disciple.
At least that he was really sympathetic to Jesus.
He was deeply considering Jesus.
He was seeking.

Verse 52, **"This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus."**

To us this seems like a normal request.
It seems like he was just asking for the honor of being the one in charge of the funeral arrangements.
It is not.
This is a dangerous request.

Because victims of crucifixion do not normally get buried well.
The entire point of being executed this way was shame and punishment.
After people died they would stay on the cross to rot.
They would not give them an honorable burial.
Afterwards their bodies might be thrown into a mass grave.
So Joseph is asking for something that Rome almost always says no to.
And in taking this step he is outing himself.
He is now going to publicly identify himself as a disciple of Christ.
Before he may have been able to hide it.
He may have been able to pretend that he was just interested or open.
But in doing this everyone will know the truth and it will be costly.
But he does so because he has been looking for the kingdom of God.
It is a step of faith.

Verse 53, **"Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid."**

So he takes down take care for Jesus's dead body.

It shows us that Jesus was hanging on the cross after his death for sometime.

He takes care of to wrap the money in love and devotion.

Jesus was not left on the cross to rot

He was not buried in an unmarked grave in the ground.

He was not dumped in a mass grave.

He is buried in a nice tomb with care.

Usually, tombs would get reused frequently.

But Jesus is buried by himself.

When he goes into the tomb, it is empty, and when He leaves, it will be empty again forevermore.

Verse 54, **"It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning."**

Tell us that he is preparing for the Sabbath.

This is significant because they are running out of time.

The coming of the Sabbath is a ticking clock.

Because when the sun goes down, they all need to be inside, and they need to not be doing any work.

Burying and caring for the dead is work.

Also, part of what I think is going on here is not just the gospel telling us what day it is.

In Hebrews 4, we are told the Sabbath was just foreshadowing of the true true and eternal rest that is found in the kingdom of God through Jesus.

They were to rest on the Sabbath in anticipation of the day when their true rest will really begin.

Jesus has died and because Jesus is going to come back.

True rest is coming.

The true sabbath is beginning.

The sabbath that will bring rest and peace for weary soul, through all of eternity, is beginning to shine.

Verse 55, **"The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments."**

The women are falling from a distance.

They are watching Joseph to see what he's going to do.

It is unlikely that they were in the room with Joseph and Pilate.

They might not know what was said.

They might not know what Joseph's plan to do with Jesus's body is.

And they were following to make sure that his bodies well cared for.

And they see that Joseph cared for him, and put him in a tomb and wrapped him.

But they know that because Joseph was running out of time he didn't have time to do a proper and full burial.

So they prepare these spices in these to help the body.

They were used to keep out the stench of decay as the body decomposes.

"On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment."

So they go back and they wait and rest on the Sabbath.

They rest, and they wait preparing to come back to care for Jesus.

I think that all of us need to be looking for the kingdom like Joseph was.

Do we need to be willing to take a step of faith and a risk.

Be willing to do more than just think about Jesus, but to take a step and following Jesus.

Even when we don't know where it's going to go.

All of us are looking for something.

We need to be looking for God's kingdom.

We need to be looking for the truth

We need to be looking to the world that is coming into ours.

And whether you recognize it or not.
Whether you see it or not.
Whether you expect it or not.
The kingdom of God is coming.
And the kingdom of God is already here.

Joseph and the women thought the kingdom of God was over and they missed it.
That Jesus is dead and they have to find something else.
But they don't realize that the resurrection is coming.
And it's coming before they can expect it.

Point number two. We are to seek the living king.

With the angels tell the women when they come, is, why are you seeking the living among the dead?

I think this is the main question of the section.

We should not seek with the dead.

The dead don't have any power.

The dead don't have any voice anymore

The dead can't touch our world or speak to us

But the living can.

Jesus was dead, but He is now alive.

And as followers of Jesus, we worship the God who lives.

We worship the crucified Jesus, who is resurrected.

We do not worship the dead.

We do not worship old forgotten wisemen, who told us some good things, and then died and decay, and now we hope that he was onto something.

Our holy book is not filled with ancient wisdom that's unfit for a modern world.

Our faith is not something that has to change with every new invention, or every new insight, because it was written by dead men.

Our faith was written and built on the living God.

Our faith rests on the belief in the hope and the reality that Jesus is alive right now.

Do not seek out a dead faith.

Do not seek out dead wisdom.

Seek the living king.

Look at the story of the resurrection in verse one

24:1, **"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared."**

As soon as they are able to take what they have prepared and head towards the tomb.

They go to for the dead body of Jesus.

They go with failing hope and failing faith.

Verse 2, **"And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus."**

But when they get there, they're confused.

Because the stone that covers the tomb has already been rolled away.

They're shocked and it doesn't make any sense.

They have gotten there as early as physically possible.

How could someone have beat them there?

When they go in, they don't see a body.

They know there was a body they were just here.

Verse 4, **"While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"**

Angels appear to them to explain what's happening.

In response, they fall down on their faces and are frightened.

Which is how any of us should respond.

In the angels, ask the key question

The angels ask, why do you seek the living among the dead?

Why are you looking for Jesus in a tomb?

Verse 6, **"He is not here, but has risen."**

Jesus is alive.

Jesus was dead, but He is dead no more.

Jesus broke the power of sin and death and returned resurrected.

Jesus has broken the chains of death.

He is risen.

Jesus is not a dead God, He is a living God

But He is not just a God who is alive.

He is a God who has risen.

He is a God, who has tasted death on our behalf, and come back.

Jesus did not just return in resurrection, so that He could show off how powerful He is as a God

Jesus came back in resurrection so that all of us could one day come back after our deaths, if we put our faith in Jesus.

His resurrection is proof that His sacrifice was accepted.

His resurrection proves that we can have salvation

His resurrection proves that we can be forgiven and made new.

Verse 6, **"Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."**

They say Jesus told you this was gonna happen.

You see Jesus, is not surprised as His resurrection He planned it.

Jesus tried to warn us disciples from the very beginning of His ministry years ago. I am going to die be buried for three days and then I will return being resurrected.

And they never understood it.

They never got it.

They didn't take him literally they thought he was talking about something else or something bigger or more significant to them.

Or they were too busy arguing about who is the greatest.

The angels tried to them Jesus told you this was gonna happen.

You need to remember.

Verse 8, "**And they remembered his words,**"

Then they finally do remember

The lightbulb goes on, and they think of all the times Jesus did tell them.

This is what was going to happen.

If this was a movie and you were filming it, here's where you put all the flashbacks.

I love that part of the movie where the big twist in the reveal happens and then you go back and see that we're all of the hints that were there the whole time.

You didn't notice it the first time you saw it, but now that you know it's obvious it was right in front of you.

The resurrection of Jesus was right in front of them the whole time, but they didn't see it.

Women remember the words of Jesus, and they believe.

Like the women, we need to remember.

Preachers often face the temptation to say new things.

Especially on days like Easter where this is a story most have heard before.

We can want to do something different, be exciting, or try to talk about something more important, or more relevant or more immediately accessible for you and me.

But the problem is that, just like Jesus' disciples, we forget.

Jesus told them repeatedly he was gonna die when the moment came they were shocked.

And as we go through our lives, we get busy.

The cares in the worries of this life pile up, and they distract us.

And we forget the Jesus has been raised from the dead.

We forget that He lives even now.

We forget the Jesus is alive

We forget that Jesus loves you now

He did not just love you 2000 years ago when He died.

He still loves you actively today at this moment.

Salvation is available to you.
So we need to seek the living king.
We need to seek what is alive.
By seek what is living I mean we need to see what brings eternal true life.
Not just what makes us feel better or seems to work.
But we need to seek what can breathe life into our bones.

Most of the things that we can seek in this life are dead.
We seek out drugs in the promise of the high that they bring, but they're dead, and they only bring death.
We can seek out alcohol or other substances in the life that they promised to bring, but they can only bring death.
We can seek out entertainment and joy, and whatever it is, that makes us happy. Because we hope that the next thing that we scroll onto or the next video we watch the next thing that comes across us maybe will bring us life, but they're dead.
We seek relationships or the love of people hoping it will complete us.
We seek so many other things hoping for life.

We mock those ancient people before us who worshiped rocks and wood.
But most people worship glass, shiny lights, and screens
We need to seek the Living King.
Because Jesus is the only one who has the words of eternal life
Jesus is the only one who has the water that can quench your thirst
Jesus is the only one who can give you what you need to be fully, and truly alive.
Why do we seek the living among the dead?

Point 3: **Seek the true story.**

There are many stories in the world.
There are many different narratives.
And I don't mean entertainment type stories.
I don't just mean the stories that we tell in our books are in our movies are television shows.

I mean the stories that explain the world.

I mean the stories that tells us where do human beings come from and what is our purpose.

The stories that tell us how to treat one another, and the direction that the world is heading.

The stories that explain the origin of the universe, and where gods come from.

There are many of those stories.

There are the stories that tell us that there is no objective truth and we're all free to think whatever we want as long as we aren't hurting other people because it doesn't really change anything.

The story that the Bible has a bunch of mistakes and maybe it was good once but it's not really useful anymore.

We have better books now.

There are many stories.

Especially in our individualistic age, almost everyone has their own story and their own explanation, and their own narrative, that they tell themselves that explains the world.

What all of us need to do is to seek out the true story and the true narrative.

It is not enough to be content with your own understanding, or the story that you have made up.

The story of the resurrection of Jesus is not one of the stories.

The story of Jesus's death, and his resurrection is the true story that can explain everything else.

And all of us need to be willing to seek the truth.

Verse 9, **"and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest."**

The women return, and they proclaimed the gospel in the resurrection. They are the first to share that Jesus has risen. And they tell all of the apostles and the rest of the disciples who were there.

It's interesting that the apostles don't get to be the first ones to proclaim the resurrection but these women do.

The women here, and believe the resurrection first.

Verse 10, **"Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,"**

Three of the women are named specifically

They are honored in the gospel story for being the first to find the truth Mary Magdalene was possessed by seven demons, but Jesus saved her, and now she sees Jesus resurrected.

Verse 11, **"but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them."**

But they are not believed

The disciples don't believe them.

The story of Jesus dying on the cross for the sins of the world, and coming back to life scenes like an idle tale.

The Greek here is a little more colorful.

The translation means more like it is the babbling of fools.

It is the foolish chatter of women who don't know how to be quiet.

After all women are not trustworthy (sarcasm)

Women are not allowed to be witnesses.

If you were inventing the story of the resurrection, you would never choose women as the first to see Jesus, and to see the empty tomb.

Because no one would believe them.

They're so emotional, and obviously overcome by their grief.

It must've been confused or got it wrong.

The apostles. The men who should know much better don't listen.

They don't wanna seek the truth.

But one does.

Verse 12, **"But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened."**

Peter rises and runs.

Peter goes immediately to seek the truth

I don't know what was going through Peter's mind.

I don't know what Peter was thinking what he believed or what he thought.

But Peter was not content to stay there

Peter was not content to just dismiss these women.

Peter ran to seek the truth for himself.

Peter just doesn't do that eventually he does it immediately.

Peter doesn't think that's interesting. I'm gonna put that on the back burner and get around to investigating that later.

Peter doesn't think that he will consider it in when he has time he'll look.

Peter rises immediately and runs to find out the truth.

See there are many who are like the apostles.

They hear the gospel, and they dismiss it as the babbling of fools

As the foolishness for weak minds.

Are there some who think that sounds interesting I'm not sure I believe it but I will think about it.

And they don't actually think about it.

They don't actually take time to discover it.

They just say they're gonna think about it.

I remember, I had a good friend, who is always trying to convince me why Christianity was foolish.

He would try to talk to me about. It's weird that you read your Bible all the time and think of it highly.

Eventually, I just asked him. Have you read the Bible recently?

Have you ever tried to study it for yourself?

Have you taken the time to read any of the philosophers or theologians over the past 2000 years who have thought about the objections and the questions that you're raising and written volumes upon volumes of answers to them?

Have you ever run to Jesus find out if it's true?
Or do you think it's an idle tale?

Peter runs.

And Peter goes, and he sees for himself that the tomb is empty, and the Jesus has risen

Peter sees the clothes that was wrapped around His body have been unwrapped folded up and sat nicely down because Jesus doesn't need those.

And Peter goes home, marveling in wonder at the truth of what has happened.

Why is Peter the only one mentioned to her who goes to investigate for himself?

Before Jesus trial, Peter was the one who denied Jesus.

Peter was the one who failed.

He said he would die for Jesus, but he abandoned Jesus.

And Peter ran away in tears and shame.

But now, Peter ran because he had hope.

Now Peter can run with joy.

Because of Jesus is alive, there is hope

If Jesus is alive, and everything, he said is still true.

If Jesus is alive, then there is redemption and forgiveness for sins.

If Jesus is alive, broken people can be restored.

If Jesus is alive, then Peter story is not gonna end in embarrassment and failure. It will continue.

Have you searched for the truth?

Do you believe that Jesus really is alive?

Or do you believe that the story of the Resurrection is an idle tale, foolish women, and weak minds?

If the resurrection is not true, Christianity is dumb.

If the resurrection is not true, we are wasting our time.

The story is true, and we ignore it. If we believe it to be an idle tale, then we are risking everything.

I have staked my entire life and the truth of the story.

I've built my entire life on the idea of that Jesus really did come back from the dead.

You seek the truth?

Will you dare to run like Peter and find out for yourself if Jesus is really still alive?

CONCLUSION:

We need to seek the kingdom.

We need to seek the living God

And we need to seek the truth.

Reality is that every single thing that you seek is found in the risen and resurrected Jesus.

There is nothing else in this life that you can try that will work.

Most of the things that we were trying are like cheap toys you get out of a machine.

They work for a little bit and then it breaks.

All of those things will fail us.

They will either fail you now in this life or when you die did you stand before Jesus they will fail you then.

But the reason Jesus died and was resurrected because Jesus loves you

The risen Christ is seeking you and running after you and chasing you.

He came to bring forgiveness for your sins.

He came to fix what was broken.

He came to restore and reconcile you to Himself.

Come to Jesus and find the eternal sabbath rest
Come to Jesus and find forgiveness of your sins
Come to Jesus, and find all that you have ever been looking for.
It is free.

You don't have to give a lot of money to the church.
You don't have to fill out a form
You don't have to do a lot of good things in order to gain that
Jesus did all of the work for you
And the grace of Jesus and the kingdom of God is available to anyone
who comes to Jesus in faith.
You just have to come and seek.

If you are a follower of Jesus and Christian already, and want you also to
remember the empty tomb.

We do not believe in idle tales.

We believe in God, the father Almighty, the creator of heaven and earth,
and Jesus Christ His only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified
died, and was buried, descended into the grave, and on the third day he
rose again from the dead. He is ascended into heaven, and seated at the
right hand of God the father Almighty, from there, he will come to judge
the living in the dead.

Jesus is risen.

He is risen indeed.

Let us pray and seek Him.