

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon title: Jesus Models the Resurrection Body (Resurrection Sunday), Luke 24

Date preached: April 16, 2017

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Today is the Sunday when Christians around the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For those who don't believe in the resurrection, oh well. For those who do, the resurrection gives hope. Don't we need hope today? Don't we need hope beyond this life? Don't we need hope beyond the grave?

INTRODUCTION:

- Last Sunday we recognized Palm Sunday, the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem and was treated like a triumphant king. He was called “the King of Israel” by the people, and they expected him to deliver them from their Roman oppressors.
- On Monday, he cleared the temple of money changers who made large profits as they gave out Jewish coins in exchange for pagan money. Jesus drove them out and overturned their tables.
- On Tuesday, he avoided the priests who were trying to trick him. On the Mount of Olives, he taught parables. He warned people about the Pharisees, and he told people Herod's temple would be destroyed in the future. He told his disciples he would return some day.
- On Wednesday, we don't have any record. Perhaps he rested.
- On Thursday, Jesus met with his disciples in the upper room. He prepared for his crucifixion and tried to prepare his disciples for it as well. He instituted the Lord's Supper with bread and wine as a memorial to his body and blood.

-That night he took his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed all night.

- Thursday night turned into Friday morning as he was betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, arrested, and deserted by his disciples and other followers. He was beaten and mocked. People laughed and scorned him. He was put on trial, and while all of the proceedings of the trial were illegal, the trial continued.

-He was forced to carry his own cross.

-He hung on that cross — taking on the sins of the world. The Bible says “*He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in him.*” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

-Friday afternoon, Jesus died on the cross, and he was placed in the tomb before 6:00 in the evening.

- On Saturday, his body lay in the tomb. It was the Sabbath, and all work stopped.
- And, then, on Sunday came...his resurrection!

I’m going to speak about Resurrection body this morning, but first let’s talk about the events which happened immediately following the resurrection.

First, WOMEN WERE THE FIRST TO KNOW OF THE RESURRECTION.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:1-8 ¹*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. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ 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? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” ⁸ Then they remembered his words.*

Who were these women? Their names are given. Listen.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:9-10 ⁹ *When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.* ¹⁰ *It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.*

EXPLANATION: **Mary Magdalene** is mentioned first. She's mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels, even more so than most of the disciples. She was there during Jesus' ministry, during his crucifixion, and right there, after his resurrection.

Then we have **Joanna**, the wife of Chuza, who worked for the King of Herod. Both Mary Magdalene and Joanna had demons cast out of them.

In Luke 8:1-3 we learn some about Joanna—

SCRIPTURE: Luke 8:1-3 ¹ *Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him,* ² *and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out;* ³ *Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.*

EXPLANATION: The next woman mentioned is **Mary**, the mother of James the disciple. The scripture doesn't say much about her. It's easy to get the Mary's confused because Mary was a very popular name in the day.

What happened next?

Second, THE DISCIPLES DID NOT BELIEVE THE EYEWITNESS REPORT OF THE WOMEN.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:11-12 ¹¹ *But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.* ¹² *Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.*

EXPLANATION: Even after Peter heard what the women said and went to look for himself, he still wondered.

It was not a mistake the women were the first to learn about the resurrection. Had it been one of the disciples, or another man, or group of men, they wouldn't have kept it as simple as the women. Remember that not too much earlier, the disciples argued among themselves as to who would be the greatest in God's kingdom.

I believe the main reason the disciples did not believe the women was because they were women. I can just read their minds... "We are too important to learn about the resurrection from women. Surely they are mistaken." And, even Peter ran to see but still wondered what was going on. I am sure it was quite humbling to the men.

APPLICATION: Here's some application for us to consider. God may use an unlikely messenger to humble us. God may use a messenger we would least expect to bring us news we need to hear but expected to hear about in another way.

OVERVIEW: That was my introduction. Now I want to tell you what Jesus proved about the resurrection body:

1. He proved the resurrection body can change its appearance.
2. He proved the resurrection body can mimic a human habit.
3. He proved the resurrection body is not a ghost.

First, JESUS PROVED THE RESURRECTION BODY CAN CHANGE ITS APPEARANCE.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:13-24 ¹³ *Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.* ¹⁴ *They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.* ¹⁵ *As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;* ¹⁶ *but they were kept from recognizing him.*

¹⁷ *He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"*

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ *One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"*

¹⁹ *"What things?" he asked.*

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning²³ but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

EXPLANATION: Jesus joined in the conversation with these two, but they did not recognize Jesus. They didn’t recognize his voice or his appearance. This is one of several places in scripture which lead us to believe the resurrected body has the power to change its appearance.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:25-29²⁵ *He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

²⁸ *As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.*

Second, JESUS PROVED THE RESURRECTION BODY CAN MIMIC A HUMAN HABIT.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:30-35³⁰ *When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”*

³³ *They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together³⁴ and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen*

and has appeared to Simon.”³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

APPLICATION: Jesus broke bread in a way which was unlike anyone else. Apparently, he had a mannerism unique to himself, and they recognized him. And, today, Jesus interacts with us in unique ways, which let us know he’s present. I really can’t tell you the way he interacts with me. It’s too personal. If you’ve been a believer for some time, you probably know what I mean.

Let me add a little aside here. Here’s another answer to the question, “Will we know each other after we die?” Well, yes, if this demonstration of Jesus applies to all of us. We’ll be able to recognize each other by certain habits which are unique to us.

Third, JESUS PROVED THE RESURRECTION BODY IS NOT A GHOST.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:36-43 ³⁶ *While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”*

³⁷ *They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.* ³⁸ *He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?”* ³⁹ *Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”*

⁴⁰ *When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.* ⁴¹ *And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”* ⁴² *They gave him a piece of broiled fish,* ⁴³ *and he took it and ate it in their presence.*

EXPLANATION: In John’s account of this same story, he tells us the disciples were in a locked room because of their fear of Jewish leaders. And, all of sudden, Jesus appeared with them. They thought they’d seen a ghost because Jesus just showed up. But, a ghost or spirit would not be able to eat. Apparently, the resurrected body can pass through walls. Folks, when we die, we don’t become ghosts. We don’t become angels. I told you this when I preached through Hebrews and a woman said to me, “I am so confused; I always thought we became angels.”

APPLICATION: Those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior will have the resurrection body someday. This body will be immortal. It will never die. It will be perfect. It will never get sick. The scripture says we will be like Jesus. If this means our resurrected body has the ability to do the things Jesus demonstrated, then what are the eternal purposes of all of these things? I have no idea! It's a mystery to us. We only have a glimpse of the hope of Heaven, which is before us.

The Bible tells us of the first Adam—one prone to sin, one who passed along sin to all people.

The Bible also tells us of the second Adam—Jesus, the one who never sinned, who took on the sins of the world.

SCRIPTURE: I Corinthians 15:22 ²² *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:44-49 ⁴⁴ *He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."*

⁴⁵ *Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.* ⁴⁶ *He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

CALL TO ACTION: Jesus wants to open your mind this morning so you can understand the scriptures. A friend of mine who is very intelligent is not a follower of Jesus and does not understand the simplest things of the scripture. He's not really open to Jesus opening his mind.

On this resurrection Sunday, won't you allow Jesus to open your mind so you can understand? The way you do this is through humble repentance and faith.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:9 ⁹*If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead (what I just preached about) you will be saved.*

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Sincerely, Paul Gunn
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