

Easter Surprise

Luke 24:1-12

Introduction: The Sunday Surprise that Changed Everything

Surprising Hopelessness (1)

They Had Hoped that He was the Messiah (Lu. 8:1-3)

Luke 8:1-3 After this, 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 Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

Hope Had Turned into Hopelessness (1; Lu 24:21)

Luke 24:21 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.

Surprising Lack of Security (1-2; Matt. 27:62-66; 28:2-4)

Matthew 27:62-66 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.'⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."⁶⁵ "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how."⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Matthew 28:2-4 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Surprising Empty Tomb (1-3; Luke 23:55-56)

Luke 23:55-56 The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Surprising Witnesses (4-5; Deut. 19:15)

Lightning Scary Messengers (4)

Two Brightly Dressed Angels (5; Matt. 28:5)

Matthew 28:5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Surprising Ignorance (5b-10; 9:22; 17:22-23)

Luke 9:22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

Luke 17:22-23 When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. ²³ They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." And the disciples were filled with grief.

Surprising Unbelief (11)

Surprising Wonder (12)

He Listened to the Women's Report (11-12a)

He Wondered What Could Have Happened (12b)

Conclusion: The Easter Surprises for Your Assurance (Lu 1:1-4)

Luke 1:1-4 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.