

# Marks of Discipleship

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading  
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual  
Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

April 17, 2022

## Day 1: Luke 24:1

***But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.***

The women who came to the tomb were doing what they ordinarily would have done on the same day a person died. They did not go to the tomb because of the Sabbath (sundown Friday-sundown Saturday). It was very hard for them to follow through with the proper rituals for the dead in the evening after Sabbath. They came at sunrise - the most hopeful part of the day.

**Question:** What do you consider to be the "first day of the week?" Why?

**Challenge:** What do you think is a healthy time to have a service for someone after they have died? Why?

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 12:15-25

## Day 2: Luke 24:2-3

***They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.***

The tomb looked like a cave with a small entrance. The entrance would be about three feet high and 4-5 feet wide. A large circular stone was placed in front of the entrance to keep out animals and other intruders. This stone was rolled along a track dug for it. The stone was heavy and it usually took a couple of strong people to roll it out of the way. It was a great shock not to find the body where they had placed it two days earlier. They thought that someone had taken the body of Jesus.

**Question:** What kind of marker would you like on your grave?

**Challenge:** If we believe in a Resurrection, why do we have funerals?

**Scripture:** Genesis 23:3-15

## Day 3: Luke 24:4-5

***While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.***

The appearance of the men in white clothes reminds us of the Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-4). The women knew the men in white were messengers from God but they were too afraid to look at the men. The women could not believe the news the men brought at first, because they were hurt so badly by Jesus' death. They were afraid to believe and open themselves up to being hurt again.

**Question:** Do you recall when someone you loved told you they did not care for you any more?

**Challenge:** What advice could you give someone to help them get over the loss of a loved one?

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 7:5-11

## Day 4: Luke

24:6-9

***Remember how he told you, while he***

***was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.***

The men in white calmed the fears of the women by reminding them of what Jesus said in the past. Now the women could understand just what Jesus had said in the past. When the women realized that nobody had taken the body, but that Jesus rose from the dead as He said He would, their first response was to tell others.

**Question:** When were you so excited you ran to tell someone about what happened?

**Challenge:** How do you deal with fear?

**Scripture:** Matthew 10:16-42

## Day 5: Luke 24:10-11

***Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.***

In their culture women did not teach or preach or take a leading role in public meetings, yet the first witnesses of the resurrection (the women) told others about what they had seen. They did not see themselves as teaching or preaching but simply telling what they had experienced. Today that is what God wants us to do, simply tell others what we have experienced. It would be a shame if we missed a blessing because the source of the blessing seemed too young or too old or in a form we do not expect.

**Question:** When did you tell somebody something and they did not believe you?

**Challenge:** Is there anything women are not allowed to do in our culture but men are?

**Scripture:** Exodus 35:20-29, Acts 16:13-16

## Day 6: Luke 24:12

***But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.***

Peter's impulsiveness often got him in trouble but we see that he is the one that ran to the tomb. This is the kind of faith we need to exhibit - to run to Jesus without over thinking. The women got over their surprise sooner than Peter. On becoming a Christian, some will run out and begin to tell others, some will sit for a bit and think, some will do quiet things, and some will do great things. God allows each of us the time we need to internalize what happened to us and to pick a response that fits our nature.

**Question:** When was the last time you did something without thinking?

**Challenge:** Think about how you witnessed to your faith when you first believed and how you witness now.

**Scripture:** Acts 1:6-11, Matthew 28:16-20