

>>>>>> Forty Days - Lesson 02 <<<<<<<

- 1) Any questions or comments over anything we have covered so far?
- 2) In Event 6, we will return to the tomb.
- 3) However, before we get to that and all the events of which occur there, we need to take a little side trip – I call it
- 4) **Event 5 – The Big Lie**
 - a) While all the women are returning to the disciples and telling them what had happened, this event takes place off-stage so to speak.
 - b) In Matthew we are told that some of those who were guarding the tomb came into the city to report what had happened.
 - c) We of course, do not know if these were the men who had passed out from fear or others that were there.
 - d) What we are told is how this brings about “the big lie”.

Matthew 28:11–15 (NASB 2020)

¹¹ Now while they were on their way, some of the *men from the guard* came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. ¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ and said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews *and is* to this day.

- e) Obviously, the “Big Lie” is that the disciples had come in the night and stole Jesus’ body away.
- f) The “little lie” that went along with it was that the guards had to claim they were derelict in their duties – they had fallen asleep.
- g) If these were Roman soldiers then according to [Polybius](#), in the writing “[The Rise of the Roman Empire](#) (c. 110 BC)”

If the Roman soldier is found guilty (of falling asleep on duty), he is punished by fustuarium. This is carried out as follows. The tribune takes a cudgel and lightly touches the condemned man with it, whereupon all the soldiers fall upon him with clubs and stones, and usually kill him...

- h) Though the Jewish leaders were in their heart of hearts likely convinced of the resurrection, they can not allow the truth to get out.

- i) They were all fully aware of Lazarus' resurrection and probably other miracle raisings that Jesus had performed – that too made no difference.
 - i) If they were willing to give Judas 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus, now that it was all over, they were not going to let anything (so they think) bring this ne'er-do-well back to life and ruin what they had accomplished by killing Him.
 - j) Not only were they willing to pay to keep the guards quite, they were more than willing to lie to the governor on their behalf to assure they did not get in trouble.
 - i) More than likely, their willingness to lie on their behalf was more to assure their continued perpetuation of the lie they had just paid for.
 - ii) Frankly, I am not sure if I were one of the Roman soldiers that I would have trusted these guys to keep their end of the bargain.
- 5) Moving on to Event 6, we must turn to Luke and John
- 6) **Event 6 – off to the tomb in a mad rush!**
- a) Matthew ends his account of tomb activities at the point of Jesus' appearance to the women.
 - b) He discusses the guard's report and finally the Great Commission but no other events of Jesus appearing before that.
 - c) Mark's gospel account of the events of the day do not pickup again until Event 8 when Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus.
 - d) So, let's continue with Luke and John ...
 - e) Beginning in Luke, we are at the point where the women have told of their experience and so we pick up there ...

Luke 24:11–12 (NASB 2020)

¹¹ But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe the women. ¹² Nevertheless, Peter got up and ran to the tomb; and when he stooped and looked in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

- f) Luke, obviously a very short rendition and only includes Peter going to the tomb.
- g) However, as one might expect, John's version is a somewhat more complete narrative of the return to the tomb.

John 20:2–10 (NASB 2020)

² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have put Him." ³ So Peter and the other disciple left, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead, faster

than Peter, and came to the tomb first; ⁵ and he stooped to look *in*, and saw the linen wrappings lying *there*; however he did not go in. ⁶ So Simon Peter also came, following him, and he entered the tomb; and he looked at the linen wrappings lying *there*, ⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb also entered then, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For they did not yet understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went away again to their own *homes*.

h) One important question we must ask when looking at this event is – what did Peter and John believe?

i) Did they believe that Jesus was resurrected or just that he was missing?

ii) One further thing I think we can rightly assume is that they did not believe that His body had been stolen.

(1) Anyone stealing the body would not have taken the time to fold the wrappings and face-cloth as they observed had happened.

i) Based on verses 9 and 10, I think we have to conclude that they believed Mary Magdalene and the women were correct that the body was missing; but they still did NOT understand that he had risen from the dead!

j) Luke used the phrase regarding Peter, he went away ... “marveling at what had happened.”

i) In context, this likely means he was astonished – BDAG – “wished to know what happened”

k) Verse 10 says Peter and John “went home”. The Life Application Commentary notes regarding this:

Perplexed, John and Peter left and went back home. They “believed” in something miraculous; that is, they did not fear that Jesus’ body had been stolen, as Mary had, but they did not know for sure what they believed or what they should do next. So they just went home. Later they joined with the other disciples behind locked doors

Bruce B. Barton, John, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1993), 389–390.

At this point, we have Mary believing that someone had moved the body.

We have Peter and John marveling and basically wanting to know what had happened.

We have the rest considering what they have been told as NONSENSE!

Why do you think that none of those could connect the dots at this point? Laz, et. AL.

l) Moving on then to event 7 ...

7) **Event 7** – Jesus’ next appearance – to Mary Magdalene

- a) As we indicated, Matthew ends his account of tomb activities at the point where Jesus’ appears to the women on their way back to the disciples.
- b) However, as we continue to read in John’s account, we see Jesus’ next appearance.
 - i) Please note, this is the next verse *after* Peter and John depart for their homes.
 - ii) This is the key verse in understanding that Mary came with Peter and John on the second trip to the tomb even though John does not mention her.

John 20:11–13 (NASB 2020)

¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb, weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him.”

- c) Three people took off to the tomb – Mary, Peter, and John.
- d) Mary is now left alone. standing there weeping outside the tomb.
- e) She looks into the tomb and she sees two more angels sitting where Jesus’ body would have lain.
 - i) As an aside, this brings the total number of angels appearing on this day to SIX!
- f) They asked her why she is weeping and she explains – then, she turns...

John 20:14–18 (NASB 2020)

¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and *yet* she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “**Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?**” Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “**Mary!**” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “**Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’**” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and *that* He had said these things to her.

- g) Mary, evidently does turn perhaps partially toward him, when Jesus first speaks to her.
 - i) Because of her tears or the quick glance, she assumes the person to be the gardener.
- h) It is only when she turns and looks squarely at Jesus that she knows who He is.

- i) Obviously, she grabs Him in some way.
- j) Once again, Jesus has a message for His brothers – in this case, He speaks of His return to the Father.
 - i) I find it interesting that Jesus emphasizes God as their Father and God equally as God is His Father and God.
- k) This basically ends the events at the tomb on the day of resurrection.
- l) Of course, John does tell us that she told this to the disciples but he gives no indication as to whether they believe or not.

Next we have ...

8) Event 8 – Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

- a) We have two accounts of this event. The first is a very short account in Mark (in the LE).

Mark 16:12–13 (NASB 2020)

¹² Now after that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. ¹³ And they went away and reported it to the rest, but they did not believe them, either.

- b) The second account in Luke’s Gospel is much more detailed. Let’s take a little bit of a deeper dive into this event.

Luke 24:13–24 (NASB 2020)

¹³ And behold, on that very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, which was sixty stadia from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, “**What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?**” And they came to a stop, looking sad. ¹⁸ One *of them*, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, “Are You *possibly* the only one living near Jerusalem who does not know about the things that happened here in these days?” ¹⁹ And He said to them, “**What sort of things?**” And they said to Him, “Those about Jesus the Nazarene, who proved to be a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is *now* the third day since these things happened. ²² But also some women among us left us bewildered. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. ²⁴ And *so* some of those who were with us went

to the tomb, and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.”

- c) We begin with these two disciples walking to Emmaus. We are told the name of one but not of the other.
- d) Jesus, whom they do not recognize, comes alongside them and enters into the middle of their conversation.
- e) Playing the part of one who does not know, Jesus elicits from them what we can see is the basic understanding they have of their situation.
- f) I think, from their response, we can see where they themselves were and likely the rest of the disciples as well.
 - i) Jesus of Nazareth – a man.
 - ii) Mighty prophet.
 - iii) Crucified by chief priest and rulers.
 - iv) What they had hoped - Basically GONE!
 - v) His body was missing.
- g) We can also clearly tell from their response that they were with the rest of the disciples when the women returned from the tomb.
- h) We also get a little bit of extra information.
 - i) From what they say, Peter and John did at least stop by where the rest of the disciples were to let them know that they had confirmed what the women had seen (the empty tomb) but, they did not see the Lord.
 - i) For a stranger entering casually into a conversation, Jesus really lays some heavy words on them to start.

Luke 24:25–35 (NASB 2020)

²⁵ And *then* He said to them, “You foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to come into His glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the Prophets, He explained to them the things *written* about Himself in all the Scriptures.

²⁸ And they approached the village where they were going, and He gave the impression that He was going farther. ²⁹ And *so* they strongly urged Him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ And it came about, when He had reclined *at the table* with them, that He took the bread and blessed *it*, and He broke *it* and *began* giving *it* to them. ³¹ And *then* their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² They said to one another, “Were our hearts not burning within us when He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining

the Scriptures to us?”³³ And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them,³⁴ saying, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ They *began* to relate their experiences on the road, and how He was recognized by them at the breaking of the bread.

- a) I can’t imagine how wonderful it must have been and yet how heart breaking as well to hear Jesus interpret all the Scriptures about himself.
 - i) Wonderful in that he would have been able to present is as none other could.
 - ii) Heart breaking in that they were still thinking he was gone forever.
- b) And then “the big reveal”!!! Jesus, we must assume, changes forms right in front of their eyes in whatever way was necessary and they recognized him.
- c) They make their way immediately back to Jerusalem and the rest of disciples to report what they had seen.
- d) Surprise – they are not the only ones that have now seen the risen Lord!
- e) This leads us to event 9

9) Event 9 – Jesus appears to Simon.

- a) Looking at the end of Luke’s Emmaus road account, there is one thing that is mentioned which is subtle but is also an event that must be accounted for in our timeline.
- b) Some where during this days events, Jesus has appeared to Simon Peter.
- c) Peter has obviously told the rest of the disciples because, as Cleopas and the other disciple arrive to tell of their experience, the rest of the disciples are already saying that Christ has risen.

Luke 24:33–35 (NASB 2020)

³³ And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them,³⁴ saying, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ They *began* to relate their experiences on the road, and how He was recognized by them at the breaking of the bread.

- d) If we look back at the account from the Long Ending for Mark, we see a contradiction here. In Mark’s account verse 13 says...

¹³ And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

- i) Again, though the Long Ending is accepted, it is also assumed that it was added after Mark had concluded his initial writing – either by Mark himself or some well intentioned scribe.
- ii) I frankly do not believe it was Mark – reason being that if indeed Mark was actually collaborating with Peter on his Gospel then Peter would obviously not made that error.

- e) We do, however, see this event (Peter seeing the risen Lord) mentioned and attested to by Paul as well.
- f) He mentions this in 1 Corinthians indicating that Jesus appeared to Peter before he appeared to the 12.

1 Corinthians 15:3–5 (NASB 2020)

³For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.