

## THE WRONG PLACE TO LOOK

### Luke 24:1-12

**Introduction:** All of us have attended funerals and have been part of the sadness, the burial, saw the flowers, the stone monument at the grave site which had inscribed "Here lies....." A friend, a loved one has died and gone on into eternity. Who of us would believe someone if they remarked, while there at the grave, "he/she is not here, but has already risen...?" "Why are you looking for somebody who is alive at a grave?"

The main thought of this scripture message is the question of the messengers at the tomb. "**Why are you looking for the living Jesus here in a tomb?**"

### I. MANY STILL LOOK FOR JESUS AMONG THE DEAD

1. There are those who regard Jesus as the "greatest" and the "noblest" hero who ever lived.
  - He lived the loveliest life that has ever been lived but he had to go and die.
  - He was the champion of the poor, the oppressed, becoming the champion of a "hippy" group.
  - In shame He had to die.
2. These ideas will not do for Jesus is not dead. He is alive!
  - Not only is He the hero of the past, but He is a living presence today.

### II. SOME REGARD JESUS AS A MAN WHOSE LIFE, WORDS AND TEACHINGS MUST BE ANALYZED CLOSELY

1. Many spend lifetimes studying about the life, words and teaching of Jesus but never find Him as Lord and Savior.
2. There is a tendency to think of Christianity and Christ in terms of "something" to be studied, simply past history.
3. Take Bible studies for example. They are becoming more rare every year. The attitude seems to be that all there is to Christianity is Bible study.
  - What about Prayer groups? Where are they? They are things of the past also.
4. No doubt, study is necessary, but Jesus is not some historical character who lived long ago, made His mark in history and has long since passed on to His reward.
  - Jesus is someone to be met, someone to be lived with every day in one's life.
  - Jesus is not only some figure in a "book" even if that "book" is the greatest book ever written.
  - Jesus is a living presence, alive, just as you and I are.

### III. THERE ARE THOSE WHO SEE IN JESUS THE PERFECT PATTERN AND EXAMPLE

1. Jesus is that indeed. However it is also true that a perfect example can be the most heart-breaking thing in the world.
  - For centuries birds gave men an example of how to fly and for centuries man has mimicked the birds but only in the last 80 years or so has man ever been able to actually fly.

2. Remember your first grade tablet? Remember those letters of the alphabet at the top of the pages? Remember how you tried and tried to copy those letters just like they were printed at the top of the page? Remember how discouraged you got, you just never could reproduce the example, but when the teacher came around and placed her hand over yours, and helped guide your pencil, only then did you ever come close to copying the example.
  - That is what Jesus does. He is not only the pattern and the example, but He helps us and guides us and strengthens us to be able to follow that pattern and example.
  - Jesus is not simply a model or example, He is a living presence to help us live.
  
3. It may well be that our Christianity has laced the essential "something." One can't quite put his/her finger to it, but there is something missing - perhaps.
  - Perhaps you have been regarding Jesus as the greatest and noblest man ever, but that is all. You have kept Jesus in the past.
  - Perhaps you have only studied about Jesus, His life, teaching and His words. You know all about Him, but you don't know Him personally.
  - Perhaps you have tried to follow the example of Jesus and have become frustrated because you have been unable to attain what He did. You try to be like someone you don't know personally.
  - Perhaps there's something missing in your life, in your "Christianity" because you have done like those early tomb visitors, looking for Jesus among the dead.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Here lies the difference between Christianity and every other religion.
  - Their founders are all dead.
  - Our founder rose from the grave and is alive.
  - Go to the tombs of Mohammed, Confucius and Buddha and to the graves of others and you will read, "Here lies...."
  - Go to the tomb of Jesus and the words of the angels will ring out upon your ears, "***He is not here, He is risen...***"
  
2. Let us not seek the living among the dead. Let us not search for Jesus among the dusty pages of history. Let us look around us, for that is where Jesus is.
  
3. Would you like to meet Jesus right now? Would you bow to His Name, would you claim Him as your Lord and Savior right now? He is all that. You must! He did all He did for you. What will you now do for Him?