

## THE WRONG PLACE TO LOOK

Luke 24:1-12

INTRO:

The all-important and the challenging question in this story is the question of the messengers in the tomb, "Why are you looking for Him who is alive among the dead?" There are many of us who still look for Jesus among the dead.

There are those who regard Jesus as the greatest and the noblest hero who ever lived, as one who lived the loveliest life that has ever been lived on earth and who then died. That will not do. Jesus is not dead; He is alive. He is not a hero of the past; He is a living presence to-day.

There are those who regard Jesus as a man whose life must be studied, and whose words must be examined, and whose teaching must be analysed. There is a tendency to think of Christianity and Christ in terms of something to be studied. The tendency may be seen in the quite simple fact of the extension of the study group and the extinction of the prayer meeting. Beyond a doubt study is necessary; but Jesus is not only someone to be studied; He is someone to be met and lived with every day in life. He is not only a figure in a book, even if that book be the greatest book in the world; again, He is a living presence.

There are those who see in Jesus the perfect pattern and example. He is that; but it remains true that a perfect example can be the most heart-breaking thing in the world. For centuries the birds gave men an example of flight, and yet not till modern times could man fly. We may remember that when we were young and in the first grade. We had a tablet which had the top two or three lines already filled in with the alphabet; below those lines were blank lines on which we had to copy that alphabet. How utterly discouraging were our efforts to reproduce that perfect pattern! But then the teacher would come and, with her hand, would guide our hand over the lines and we got nearer to it. That is what Jesus does. He is not only the pattern ~~and~~ and the example. He helps us, and guides us, and strengthens us to follow that pattern and example. He is not simply a model for life; again, He is ~~xxx~~ a living presence to help us to live.

It may well be that our Christianity has lacked the essential something, because we too have been looking for Him who is alive among the dead.

Here lies the difference between Christianity and every other religion. Their founders are dead; our founder rose from the grave and is alive again. Go to the tombs of Mohammed and Confucius and Buddha and all the others and you will read the words, "Here he lies." Go to the tomb of Jesus and the words of the angels ring out upon your ears, "He is not here, He is risen!"