

Proofs of the Resurrection

Speaker: David D.

Date: September 01, 2026

Church: 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel

References: **Luke 24**, Romans 4:25; Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 16:21-22; Mark 16:12; Luke 24:27; Luke 24:32; Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23; John 20:19; Luke 24:38-39; Luke 24:45-47; Isaiah 53:11; Psalm 103:12; Luke 24:49; Luke 24:52-53

To each one of you, good to see so many of you here tonight and so many joining us via the medium of Zoom. And I'm always amazed when I come to 16th Avenue, the work you do with Zoom. When we do Zoom, we have two or three, you know, that join in. So you've got this vast number all over the world, and it's a joy at various meetings. And I know the work that you do here on Fridays and Saturday nights, and that's just wonderful. And it's been a pleasure for Faith and I to be with you this week. And we are praying that God will do a work through the young people that are here, and the older ones, and the ones that are new that have been coming in. And we're very, very encouraged by that.

And Harold said that he works us hard while we are here, but we want that. We want to be used; we want to be involved in the work of the Lord here. We see this as a second home in a way. We've come here—I don't know how many years—but it's an interesting thing that I come to Canada more than I go anywhere else. I may go to Ontario, I may go to 100 Mile House, I may go to Kelowna, I may go here. I don't go very many places in Florida; I do some, of course. But it's a pleasure to meet many that are here.

I want to mention this magazine: this is Cornerstone magazine. I have been involved with it from the beginning. It's about ten years old, and it serves assemblies in North America, Canada, and the US. If you're not on the mailing list—there's no charge. If you're not on the mailing list, please see me. I'll gladly put your name on this mailing list. And it has a number of different articles. It usually has a gospel testimony of someone that's come to the Lord Jesus Christ—sometimes an atheist, sometimes of all different types of backgrounds. And we have news of different events that are taking place: conferences, and events, and that kind of thing. And this issue is really about Roman Catholicism—testimonies of those from a Roman Catholic background of salvation. I have an article in here about Catholicism. There's another article by a friend that is a good gospel preacher, and he has a lead article. There's a lot of good articles in this particular issue. If you're interested, there's some copies upstairs.

There's one right here; you can come up and just take it. And again, if you would like to have your name on the list, we gladly would like to put it on.

The Centrality of the Resurrection

Well, I want to ask you to take your Bibles and turn with me to Luke's Gospel, chapter 24. And I want to think with you about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And I want to look especially at this chapter, and almost every Gospel account of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. There seems to be proofs that the Lord includes, evidences and proofs the Lord has in these chapters about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus, of course, is prophesied in the Old Testament. We see it taking place in the New Testament, the Gospels. We see it preached forty times—forty times in the New Testament, ten times in the Book of Acts. There's large sections or fairly large sections about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. It's explained and developed in the epistles. It's certainly one of the most important doctrines, and is very important to us.

And so it's something, it seems—and maybe not here, but it seems like it's only preached about on the Easter weekend. I don't know how it is in many places here, but that seems to be the practice, and it shouldn't be that way. It's a major, major theme in the New Testament, and it's a very important one. It's important for a number of reasons: it demonstrates the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; it is a doctrine that shows the acceptance of the finished work of the Lord Jesus by God the Father through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. It says:

[Romans 4:25 NKJV]

who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

And the idea is that the Father accepted the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ because of His resurrection. So there's so many important truths about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. We want to spend some time thinking of some of the proofs of the resurrection in chapter 24 of the Gospel of Luke.

Now, as we begin that, I want to share a little story. It's not a true story, but it's a story that makes a point. It's a story that says there's a conversation between Pontius Pilate and Joseph of Arimathea. And Pontius Pilate is having this conversation, and he says to Joseph of Arimathea, "Joseph, we know you and your family have spent a fortune on your family burial tomb, and I've heard that you've given it to the Lord Jesus Christ. How could you waste such

a vast amount of money? How could you do such a thing?" And so Joseph of Arimathea says to Pontius Pilate, "Ah, it's only for the weekend." Amen! So it makes the point that the Lord Jesus is only going to spend three days in the grave, and that's a great truth we see all through the Scriptures. Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, and the Lord Jesus is going to spend three days and three nights in the grave.

Proof 1: The Empty Tomb and the Angelic Message

In this chapter of Luke, we want to look at a couple of sections, as time allows, and see proofs. And I think it's a good question to ask ourselves: Why does the Lord give us proofs of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ?

I think proofs **anchor** us. Proofs **empower** us. When you know something is true, something wonderful is true, well, it strengthens us, doesn't it? It empowers us. And that's why apologetics—that's why sometimes giving a certain amount of apologetics is good. I don't think it's necessary to have apologetics all the time. There was a man named C. H. Mackintosh—I don't know if you've read any of his writings—he used to say that about the resurrection or the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is so obvious, it proves itself so much, it's like taking a flashlight and shining it on the sun and saying it's still there. No, you don't have to do too much to prove that the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ is still powerful and shining! But it's still good to have some of these proofs, and the Lord gives us proofs here in this great book, and almost in every resurrection account.

So I'm going to read the first twelve verses of this chapter, and we're going to look at a couple of these different areas and these proofs that the Lord gives in this resurrection account.

So chapter 24, verse 1:

[Luke 24:1 NKJV]

¹ Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.

Now, how these godly women—and very devout women who loved the Lord Jesus—how they thought they were going to get into the tomb and anoint the body of the Lord Jesus, we don't know. But they came by faith. Isn't it interesting? They came by faith, and they came because

of love. And they trusted somehow the Lord, some way, somehow, would enable them to do this.

[Luke 24:2-3 NKJV]

² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Here's a proof: the proof that God is putting into His Scriptures. These women coming, and they find an open tomb; and they find not only an open tomb, but they find the body of the Lord Jesus is not there. What a great thing! What a great encouragement to all the disciples and all the believers. And we'll find as we go through this chapter, it's mentioned over and over again. It says some of our own group, women, went, and the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. That was an encouragement to them. The two on the road to Emmaus, they say the same thing: "Some of our own company went to the tomb, and they found not the body of the Lord Jesus." It was an encouragement to them.

[Luke 24:4-7 NKJV]

⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"

Here are angels. And as these women saw these angels, they were very much afraid, and they bowed their faces down to the earth. And these angels said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" There's more proof: angels giving testimony about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And they said, "He is not here. He is risen. Remember how He spoke to you when He was yet in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" Here's angels preaching what the Lord Jesus Christ preached!

[Luke 24:8-11 NKJV]

⁸ And they remembered His words. ⁹ Then they returned from the tomb and told all

these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. ¹¹ And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

Then arose Peter. I think Peter hoped that it was true—hoped that it was really true.

[Luke 24:12 NKJV]

¹² But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

Let's just bow for a word of prayer.

Our God and Father, we thank You for our time tonight as we look into the Word of God, and we look at the truths of the resurrection, these proofs, this evidence of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. And so we pray these things and ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

So here we have the women going to the tomb. We have these godly women going to the tomb of the Lord Jesus, hoping to do an act of devotion and service to Him. And they go there, and they see the first proof the Lord gives: an open tomb, and angels proclaiming the message of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. And they are empowered. They have such boldness, though they didn't see the body at this point yet. They didn't see the resurrection body of the Lord Jesus coming to them; they would eventually—Mary Magdalene would—but at this point, we don't have it recorded. And they go to the disciples with power, I think, with excitement: The Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!

And this eventually will empower the disciples. It's going to empower and cause Peter to run to the sepulcher, and John also. John, a younger man, we know from John's Gospel, gets there first and Peter afterwards. But something very beautiful in this: these first proclaimers of the gospel were women. The Lord Jesus used Mary Magdalene—a flawed personal background, we could say, redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ, a former prostitute as far as we know—and other women coming, and the Lord giving them this message of the resurrection. And they're the first ones to proclaim. It wasn't the apostles; it wasn't some others. The first ones to proclaim the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ are these women who come to the tomb to do a little thing, a relatively little thing. Out of devotion, they want to anoint the body of the Lord Jesus with spices. They go to do a little thing, and the Lord opens up the opportunity to

do a marvelously great thing: to be the first proclaimers of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You know, sometimes the Lord gives us something little to do, and sometimes it can turn into something much greater, something that we never imagined could ever be that way. And that's what happens with these women. You do something very little, and it can turn out to be something very, very great.

You know, I'm not sure of the history of 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel, but probably from the first people that began it, it was probably a small group of people. Probably a small group of people decided, "You know, I think we want to start 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel." And when they started, they had no idea. They had no idea that 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel would somehow reach the ends of the earth with the message of the gospel. All they were thinking of doing is meeting together, and preaching the gospel, and worshiping the Lord Jesus Christ, and meeting together. The Lord can take something very small, an act of devotion very small, and can turn it into something very great. And I think that's something we need to remember today: that whatever the Lord puts on our hearts to do, whatever it may be, the Lord can take that and turn it by His power, His might, and His vision, into something much larger than we'd ever imagined could be.

Now, notice something else in this first section, and I love this part. Notice what is said in verses 6, 7, and 8. As he speaks to these women—now these women, I think, were wonderful Bible students. Sometimes women are even better Bible students than some of the men! I've known some—sometimes I'm speaking, and the ladies are taking notes, and they've got these journals, and they're taking all kinds of different notes and things like that. Faith has a sister named Hope; she's a great note-taker. And she is taking notes the whole time, no matter who the speaker is. She's a very good Bible student, and she is a great prayer warrior for missionaries.

But notice here, this angel says to these women: "He is not here. He is risen. Remember how He spoke unto you when He was yet at Galilee." Now, keep your finger there. Turn with me over to Matthew 16, verse 21. In Matthew 16:21, the Lord is with a fairly large gathering of disciples. It mentions His disciples:

[Matthew 16:21-22 NKJV]

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

It was certainly the Twelve, but a larger group than just the Twelve. And I believe we know that women were there; these women were there too. And the Lord Jesus says this to this gathering of disciples: how He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Peter, on this occasion, says, "Lord, far be it from Thee!" Don't do it. But the women are listening to this message.

And back to Luke 24, the angels say to them, "Remember when you were in Galilee, that the Lord was saying to you, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and rise the third day'?" Now, this is the part I love: verse 8, they remembered. They remembered! Sometimes after I preach a message, somebody asks me, they'll say, "What was that you said again?" I can't even remember what I said! And here are these women—this could have been a month later, maybe longer—they remembered that He said He would rise from the dead. Remember the Word. These are proofs, proofs put into this chapter over and over again.

So these women are great. They go out and they proclaim the message of the gospel. They remember the Word that was preached. They go and have a heart to do something for the Lord Jesus. And may we be like the women. May we be those who are servants, devoted servants to serve the Lord Jesus as much as we can. It's a wonderful thing to see in local assemblies and wherever we go: to see those who are devoted servants for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Proof 2: The Emmaus Road and the Scriptures Expounded

Let's go on to the next section. So this is the first section; we see the open tomb. But let's go to the next section: this is verses 13 to 35. It's a large section, and we're not going to read the whole of it. But in verse 13, the Lord goes and joins Himself to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. And they had been in Jerusalem, and they were cast down, and they were very discouraged. And they had left Jerusalem, and they say to one another, "We had hoped it was He"—verse 21—"we had hoped that it had been He who would have redeemed Israel. And

besides all of this, it's the third day since these things were done." And so they're talking with one another; they're walking together. It says in this passage that they had, in the King James rendering, gone about three furlongs—about seven miles from Jerusalem towards Emmaus. And they're traveling. They talk together about what had happened in Jerusalem.

And it came to pass while they talked—I love this part—the Lord Jesus Christ joins Himself to them. So beautiful! You know, the Lord loves to do that; He likes to join. When we're talking about the things of the Lord Jesus, He likes to join Himself with us; He likes to be among us. And so it says, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. Verse 16: "But their eyes were holden." We want to come back to that in a second. They did not recognize Him.

Now, I want to say reverently, I think the Lord Jesus at certain times has a sense of humor. I say that reverently. But notice this passage. The Lord Jesus asked them, "What manner of communication is this that you have one with another, and you are so sad?" And one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered, saying unto Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem that does not know which things have come to pass in these days?" I love the answer of the Lord Jesus. This is where I think He has a little bit of a sense of humor. He says, "What things?" Don't you love that? He's the one that was crucified! He's the one that they are talking about! And he said, "Are You the only stranger?" And He says, "What things?"

They're cast down and they're sad. And we want to look at it a little bit, but we'll come back to that. I want to look with you at verse 16. I don't know what your thoughts have been when you read verse 16, maybe at other times. Reading from the King James translation—and other translations are similar: "Their eyes were holden that they should not recognize Him." Now, some have said that God purposely blinded the eyes, miraculously blinded the eyes of these disciples that they should not recognize the Lord Jesus; that the Lord Jesus or God the Father did not want them to recognize the Lord Jesus Christ.

I feel the Lord never blinds anyone's eyes ever to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He doesn't ever want to blind anyone; He always wants us to see as much as we can possibly see about the Lord Jesus. Now, I was thinking about this, and somehow the Lord led me to a quotation by a man named Albert Barnes. He's a commentator. And here's what he says, and I love what he says, and I agree with what he says. He says: "'Their eyes were holden.' This expression is used merely to denote that they did not know who He was. Not that they were blinded, but that they did not know who He was. It does not appear that there was anything supernatural or miraculous in it, or that God used any power to blind them."

Then he says this—and I want you to keep your finger there and go with me over to Mark's Gospel. In Mark's Gospel, we're going to look at a parallel account, the same account in a

different Gospel: Mark's Gospel, chapter 16 and verse 12. And sometimes when you look at a parallel account, it sheds light on the passage you're reading. I want to encourage that. If you're reading one Gospel and you wonder about a certain passage or reference, look at another Gospel.

Now notice verse 12 of chapter 16 of Mark's Gospel:

[Mark 16:12 NKJV]

After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.

Notice this phrase: "in another form"—in a resurrection, glorified form the Lord Jesus appeared to them. So it's not that the Lord was trying to confuse them and blind them from knowing who the Lord Jesus Christ is; they simply did not recognize Him because He was in His resurrection body.

Now, I think there's a lesson here. They will recognize Him later—not very much later, but a little bit later they'll recognize Him. I think they were so cast down, and they were so discouraged in themselves, disappointed in something they had hoped for, they were not really looking at the Lord Jesus. I think if they looked at Him as this visitor who joined Himself to them, I think they would have discovered the Lord Jesus much earlier. And sometimes we can be that way. We can be very discouraged, very cast down, very sad about something going on, and we don't spend enough time looking in Scripture, or looking to the Lord in prayer, or strengthening our relationship or our walk with Him. And we don't see things the Lord wants to show to us. And that's what happened here, I think. They did not really look at the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, they were cast down and they were discouraged. And they say this: "We had hoped it was He who would redeem Israel." But notice something: When these disciples are cast down, what does the Lord do? This is a good lesson for us. When we go meet people who are cast down, what does the Lord do? It's in verse 27:

[Luke 24:27 NKJV]

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

He talks to them; He makes certain statements to them. But the main thing that He does is in verse 27: He takes them through Scripture and He expounds the Word of God to them.

Someone told me years ago that when you go to the hospital—I don't know if you like going to the hospital and visiting believers; it's not something that I really like doing a lot. I find it very, very hard. If the person is going to recover and just in there for something minor, that's one thing. But when it's a very serious situation, it's very hard. But someone said to me years ago, "Just read Scripture. Just read Scripture." That's what the Lord Jesus does: "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." That's so beautiful.

Later on, at the end of this little section, these disciples say:

[Luke 24:32 NKJV]

And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

Something very powerful in the expounding of the Scriptures! You know, it's one of the reasons that I am part of a group of believers we call assemblies: because they take the proclamation of the Scriptures very seriously. Amen. We have a lot of preaching. We're just like you: on Sunday morning, we have two times of Bible exposition. It's a little different timeframe, but we have that. Of course, Wednesdays we have that. We have youth group, and we have Friday nights, and we have home Bible studies. We have times that we are almost always—we have prayer times, of course—but we do a lot of proclamation of the Scriptures. We are studying and looking at and digging into the Word of God, and having others preach the Word of God to us, because this will help our spiritual life. Those who are unsaved will get saved; those who are believers will be built up and become stronger. The main means to have our lives strengthened is by the hearing of the Word of God:

[Romans 10:17 NKJV]

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

And:

[1 Peter 1:23 NKJV]

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

The Word of God is a powerful tool. And here the Lord Jesus, when they're cast down, when they're discouraged, He preaches the Word of God to them. What a great lesson for us to preach, preach, preach, teach, and study together the Word of God!

Proof 3: The Living, Physical Presence of Christ

Let's go to the next section. So here you have the Lord: in the first section, you have the open tomb; here you have the living Lord Jesus Christ proclaiming the message of the gospel, the message of Himself to them, and He opens the Scriptures to them.

When we come to this section, verses 33 through 43, the Lord Jesus actually appears to them. He's not preaching to them in this section, but He appears to them and He says, "Touch Me. Touch Me. See that I'm not a ghost. See that I'm real. See that I'm real." Another evidence! Another evidence the Lord gives to His disciples. I don't know if they were hard of grasping things, but He's giving one after another after another evidence of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He goes into a room. John chapter 20 speaks about the same period:

[John 20:19 NKJV]

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

He enters the room without opening the door. And then He comes, verses 38 and 39:

[Luke 24:38-39 NKJV]

³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

An evidence! And He says to them, "Do you have anything to eat?" "I eat. I'm flesh and bones. It is Me. I'm resurrected from out of the dead. I'm in My glorified resurrection body." Evidence after evidence!

Three Crucial Truths for the Church

But I want to close with this; our time is about finished. I want to go near the end of the chapter. Now, in this chapter, it's interesting: there's a number of times the Lord speaks about open things. He says in verse 45, near the end of the chapter, He opens their understanding. He says in verse 32, He opened to them the Scriptures. Certain open things: the Lord opens Scriptures; the Lord opens our understanding. I think it's good to pray that prayer: Lord, open my understanding.

Notice something, and I want to end with this: verses 45 through 49. He wants to leave them with three great things. These are three things that are very important for us, crucial for us—for each one of us as individuals, for each one of us in local assemblies:

[Luke 24:45-47 NKJV]

⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

The first thing He says in verse 46: it was necessary that the Lord Jesus should suffer. You know, the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ is crucial in our spiritual lives, in our church life. I think that's one reason it's very important to have the Lord's Supper: to present the Lord Jesus' finished work before us over and over and over and over again. There's a richness in it; there's an importance in it. It was important that the Lord Jesus should suffer, should go to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, and He should die on that cross. He should bear our sins in His own body. He should take our sins and bear them and satisfy, in the finished work of the Lord Jesus, satisfy the holy demands of His Father. It says:

[Isaiah 53:11 NKJV]

He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

So important! The Father was satisfied. In the resurrection, He was satisfied with the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and through that, He could say:

[Psalm 103:12 NKJV]

As far as the east is from the west,

So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

So the first thing is: never forget the finished work and the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. He's leaving these truths to His disciples.

The second thing He says is: never forget the resurrection, that the Lord Jesus would rise from the dead on the third day.

But notice something else He gives to His disciples, and this is crucial; this is so important—verse 47. This is something 16th Avenue does; this is something we long to do; this is what New Testament churches long to do and find very, very important: that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations. We should be a missionary-minded people. We should be world Christians. We should know something that's going on throughout the world, whether it be in the Arab world, whether it be in Asia, whether it be in Africa.

Tomorrow night, we have a self-supporting missionary in our local assembly. He's going to give a report of the work—he goes to Africa, usually in the Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe area—to be able to know more about parts of the world, and pray for it, and support it, and help support our missionaries there in those places. That repentance and remission of sins should be preached among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the world. "And you are My witnesses." It's going to begin with you. This movement of world evangelization is going to begin with you, and it's going to continue throughout all the ages until the Lord Jesus Christ comes back again.

And how do we accomplish this work? Verse 49:

[Luke 24:49 NKJV]

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Not through your own energy—it's a little bit of what Joshua prayed. Not through your own ability, not through your own wisdom, not through your own cleverness or ingenuity, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Sebastian prayed: "Lord, how do we accomplish certain things? How do we do certain things? How are lives changed?" By the power of the Holy Spirit! And we serve the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, and ask God to do a work in the lives of people through the power of the Holy Spirit. "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." You'll be filled with power from on high; you will be energized and empowered by the Holy Spirit of God.

The Lord Jesus now ascends from their presence. And look at verses 52 and 53:

[Luke 24:52-53 NKJV]

⁵² And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Now, you would think they would be discouraged and sad about the ascension of the Lord Jesus. But when the Lord Jesus ascends from their presence and goes back, what do they do? They go back to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising and blessing and worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ!

A number of great proofs of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. I think these great proofs energized this early church, empowered them, gave them the zeal and the energy to go out. They had their problems, they had their difficulties, they had their challenges, but it empowered them to go out and to be those witnesses in the uttermost parts of the world.

Now, we want to be those kind of people. We want to be those kind of witnesses. We want to see the Lord do wonderful things in our midst. We want to be like the women; we want to be like these witnesses of the early disciples. And so may the Lord do that in our midst. Maybe He starts with something small. Maybe the Lord puts in your heart something small; maybe it grows to be something bigger; maybe it stays small; maybe the Lord brings something else into your life—whatever it may be, may you be a servant. May you be someone like these disciples who are His witnesses and His servants, like these women who are devoted to Him.

Well, let's close in a word of prayer.

Our God and Father, we thank You. We thank You for this time tonight. We thank You for this local body of believers. We thank You for those who are gathering and joining in on Zoom. And, Father, we pray that we, wherever we are—whether we're in China or some other part

of Canada or the US—we pray, Father, that You might use us. We long to be used. We long to see You work and see souls saved, and we see those who are believers and baptized go on strong with zeal for the Lord. And so we pray these things. Father, we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.