

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

*2018 Easter*

These questions are for the **April 1, 2018** sermon, "But, On The First Day." This was our Easter Celebration! Please read the sermon passage (Luke 23:50-24:12) together out loud.

### SERMON OUTLINE

AS WE REFLECT ON CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER DEATH, NOTE . . .

1. The material evidence we need to consider (24:1-3)
  - a. The tomb was empty.
    - i. His own disciples were confused and troubled by this reality.
    - ii. His enemies had sealed it, so that no one could tamper with the tomb and live.
  - b. The stone was rolled away.
    - i. The stone was not removed to allow Jesus to exit the tomb.
    - ii. The stone was rolled away to allow people to enter and examine the evidence.
2. The critical question we need to answer (24:4-5)
  - a. The critical question: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"
  - b. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, how do we explain . . .
    - i. the stone rolled away? (It would cost people their lives.)
    - ii. the empty tomb? (No way his disciples hide it and unanimously die for a lie.)
    - iii. the testimonies of hundreds of eyewitnesses?
    - iv. the inability of his opponents to refute the claim? (Just produce the body.)
    - v. the newfound courage of the Apostles?
3. The central truths we need to believe (24:6-8)
  - a. Jesus had clearly prophesied what would happen at the end of his earthly life . . .
    - i. he must be delivered into the hands of his enemies (Mark 9:31 and following)
    - ii. he must be crucified
    - iii. he must rise again the third day
  - b. Jesus prophesied these things at least three times (Mark 8:31-32; 9:31 & 10:32-34)
4. The social conformities we need to resist (24:9-12)
  - a. "Group think" (of the Apostles at first) was that Jesus' resurrection was an "idle tale."
  - b. But do not let the "group think" of our day keep you from examining the Scriptures.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Do you spend much time thinking about the reality of the empty tomb and the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead? How does doing so impact your living and dying? Your mindset? Your outlook? Your expectations? Your love of God?
2. Based on #2, above: Do you have any friends who might be moved by the logical evidence and proof of Jesus' resurrection that is offered in this passage? Who? How can we pray as you interact with that friend? If you are NOT the friend to broach to topic, how can we pray?
3. Based on #4, above: Oftentimes, it is very difficult to influence someone's thinking who is subject to "group think." Yet God has a way of providing opportunities that separate us from the perceived safety of our group. Is there someone whom you desire to reach who has been negatively impacted by a friend's thought processes? How can you get them to the Scriptures?