



I Told You So

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Rev. Dr. David R. Schultz, Aledo UMC

Gospel Lesson, Luke 24:1-12

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Sermon, "I Told You So"

It can be one of the most annoying things that anyone can say to you: **"I told you so."**

I Told You So, Luke 24:1-12, page 2

- An employee suggests a way his company can be more efficient, but his supervisor doesn't think it will work. But after much cajoling, the supervisor gives in, and the employee puts his plan into action. And it fails. Miserably. And the supervisor says, **"I told you so."**
- A politician speaks out against a particular piece of legislation, warning of its unintended consequences. Still, the legislation passes despite her objections. And a few months later, some of those unintended consequences come to light. And predictably the politician holds a press conference where she says, **"I told you so."**
- A couple quarrel about the kind of repair that is needed on their home. Reluctantly, she gives in, and he moves forward with his plan. But it doesn't go well, and as he grapples with being wrong, she says, **"I told you so."**

None of us likes to hear, "I told you so." Usually, we hear those words when something has gone wrong. But it doesn't have to be that way. In fact, those words may be just as applicable to a situation when everything has gone just right. That's when those words can be quite comforting:

- A high school senior is afraid he won't be accepted into the college of his choice. But then that letter arrives, and he is accepted. And he is elated. And his mother says, "I told you it would work out for you."
- A young woman is expecting a child. It's her second pregnancy, but her first ended in a miscarriage. So she's especially anxious. Finally, the day arrives, and she is taken to the birthing center where she delivers a healthy 8 lb. girl. Beaming with pride, her husband says, "I told you everything was going to be all right."

We don't usually think of Jesus telling us, "I told you so." But "I told you so" is an important part of the Easter story. We see that in verse 6: *"Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."* (NLT)

Just before his Transfiguration, Jesus predicted his death; that's what the heading in my Bible says. But Jesus doesn't just predict his death; anyone can do that. Jesus predicted his resurrection! No one has ever had the power to do that *until Jesus!*

"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life" (Luke 9:22)

He repeated that prediction in Luke 18:

"We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again" (Luke 18:31-33).

I Told You So, Luke 24:1-12, page 3

Luke goes on to say that the disciples did not have a clue as to what Jesus was talking about. But who could blame them? No one had ever risen from the dead before, had they?

Well maybe. In a sense, anyway. When Jesus was asked for a sign, the only sign he would give them was the sign of Jonah. And what was the sign? Jonah was out on a boat one day, trying to get away from God. When that didn't work, he became a squatter, taking up temporary lodging in the belly of a great big fish. But just three days later, the fish evicted the squatter. In a sense, Jonah "died" and was buried in the deep, in the belly of the fish, only to be raised from the dead three days later. The entire episode paralleled the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What that tells us is that the resurrection of Jesus Christ has always been part of the plan. It was God's strategy for defeating our final enemy, death.

So now as we dig into Luke 24, we will find that there are three "I told you so's." And we've already seen the first in verse 6. It comes after the Bible tells us that at least four women went to the tomb early on what we now know as Easter morn.

Why did they go? The Bible tells us that they went to give Jesus a proper burial with the burial spices. It may be that in that culture, preparing a body for burial was women's work. Nonetheless, it was an incredible honor for all women of all generations that women—rather than men—were the first witnesses to the resurrection of the Son of God.

How many women does it take to prepare a body for burial? Presumably, just one. But the burial of Jesus presented a special problem: a stone had been rolled in front of the tomb, and it would take several women to roll it away. And to do so, they would have to face Roman guards and perhaps even risk their lives if they were to break Pilate's seal on the tomb.

So who were those brave women? Luke lists three:

- **Mary Magdalene.** Luke 2:8 tells us that Mary of Magdala was one of the women who traveled with Jesus and his disciples and that she had been possessed by demons until she was delivered from them by Jesus. Luke also tells us that Mary of Magdala helped support his ministry "out of her resources." That indicates she was probably a rather wealthy, independent woman.
- **Joanna.** According to Luke 8:3, Joanna was the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household. So she would have been a woman of some means and influence.
- **Mary the mother of James.** That would be the mother of Jesus; James was his half-brother who later played an important role in the early church.

Luke indicates there were other women, but he doesn't name them. However, Mark adds to the list:

I Told You So, Luke 24:1-12, page 4

- **Salome.** She is likely the mother of the James and John, known as the “Sons of Thunder.” Many Bible scholars believe she was also the sister of Mary, the mother of James and Jesus.

Matthew’s gospel indicates that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb along with:

- **The Other Mary.** That could be the mother of Jesus. Or it could be the sister of Martha and Lazarus. If it was that Mary, the sister of Martha, it may be that Martha was a part of the group of women as well.

It seems as though there were at least four women who made their way to the tomb that Easter morn. But when they arrived at the tomb...imagine their shock!

Luke tells us that they encountered **four shocking surprises**, and they come fast and furious. **One:** the stone had been rolled away from the entrance to the tomb. Matthew attributes the rolling stone to an earthquake; surely the women must have felt it! Matthew also tells us that the earth shook on Friday when Jesus died; that means the Easter earthquake was an aftershock of the Friday earthquake. That makes a lot of sense, both geologically and theologically.

Two: Matthew also tells us that at least one angel came down from heaven to guide the stone away from the tomb as the earth quaked. And that was the beginning of rock and roll, long before Elvis Presley. The combination of the earthquake and the “rolling stone” angel was enough to so frighten the Roman guards that they fell to the ground in a dead faint.

Seeing the entrance to the tomb as clear, the women went inside. And that’s where they encountered their **Third shocking surprise:** the body of the Lord Jesus was nowhere to be found. And as they stood there, puzzled and confused, **number Four:** two men—angels, really—suddenly appeared to the women, dressed in dazzling robes.

That’s when the women became terrified. But they didn’t faint, as the Roman guards had fainted. The women bowed with their faces to the ground, and that’s when the first angel asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead!”

And then the second angel delivers **the first “I told you so.”** “Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and *that he would rise again on the third day.*”

Then they remembered that Jesus had said he would be raised from the dead. Matthew’s gospel tells us that the angels told the women to “go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there” (Matthew 28:7).

That is incredibly important: Jesus was resurrected to live first on the earth. He was raised with a new resurrection body. He was raised to be seen by us. And he was raised to be with us forever.

I Told You So, Luke 24:1-12, page 5

If he had been resurrected to heaven, his resurrection could have easily been dismissed as mere fable or fantasy. But Paul tells us that after he was raised from the dead he was seen by hundreds of people—all witnesses to the resurrection—including 500 people at one time.

So the women rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. Incidentally, there is more running in the resurrection narrative than there is in all the other gospel narratives combined. And it's running out of joy and excitement, not fear.

The women run to tell the disciples what had happened, and that sets up the second **“I told you so”** of the resurrection story: the women say to the disciples, “I told you so!” But it doesn't go well, at least not at first.

When the women told the Eleven that Jesus had been raised from the dead, “the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.” Ladies, can you identify with that? Has that ever happened to you?

Give credit to Peter, though. He “jumped up and ran to the tomb to look” for himself. John's gospel tells us he didn't go alone; John went with him to the tomb.

Stooping, Peter peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.”

Later that day, Jesus appeared to Peter and most of the other disciples. He appeared to hundreds more over the next forty days, until it came time for Jesus to ascend into heaven. But before he went, he said to his followers, “Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.”

And that's the third and final “I told you so” of the resurrection narrative. It's the followers of Jesus telling the world the Good News of Jesus Christ. In First Corinthians 15, Paul says “I told you so” like this:

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said” (vs. 3-4).

So now it's our job to say, “I told you so.” We're not trying to be annoying; but we are bringing hope and promise and life. We have been called to tell our neighbors both near and far the Good News that Jesus died for our salvation, just as the scriptures tells us. He was buried, but the grave couldn't hold him down, and he was raised from the dead on the third day.

It's not fiction. It's not fantasy. But it does take faith to believe it—despite the fact that hundreds of people were witnesses to his resurrection. The question for you today—the question for me today—is will we believe and be connected to our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? I pray that the answer is yes.