



***"It's Not Over"***  
***Matthew 5:10-12 and Luke 24:1-8***

It's resurrection morning. The crowds have left, the crosses have been emptied, Jesus body has been entombed, and the guards have been posted. For all appearances it is over. All the commotion, hopes, dreams, expectations of Jesus followers are over. But God has something else in mind

**Key Verse.** *"Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee. The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and on the third day be raised again. Then they remembered his words" (Luke 24:6,7).*

**BACKGROUND:**

The resurrection has been doubted by many over the years. Richard Carrier, a PhD in Ancient History, wrote in "The Secular Web"- Historical Jesus is not real. "The chance that Jesus survived and this was interpreted or refashioned into a claim that he rose from the dead must be less than 1 in a million" And yet, over 2,000 years later followers of Jesus number over 1 billion worldwide and his church is going strong. The disciples came to this day with the expectation that Jesus' story was over, and yet God was about to write a new chapter.

Read *Luke 24:1-8* slowly three times. Put yourself in the moment with these women. They are going with the expectation of seeing their dead friend and teacher. They have brought spices to finalize his death. What words, phrases stand out to you as you walk this path with them? What expectations would you have had if you were them?

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Read *Mark 9:30-31*. If you were with Jesus when he said these words, what would be going through your mind? Would your understanding have changed your perspective on how you would have approached the tomb on this morning?

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Read *Luke 24:6,7* again. "Then they remembered his words." As you reflect on the resurrection of Jesus, what words of Jesus come to your mind? How do they encourage you on this day?

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*Matthew 28:8* says, "afraid yet filled with joy they ran to tell the disciples." Of what were they afraid? What frightens you, if anything, about Jesus' resurrection?

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Who have you run to tell? \_\_\_\_\_

After the resurrection Jesus makes many appearances to prove to his disciples that all this was true, and to embolden them for what is to come. How has the reality of the resurrection emboldened you? How can it?

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Read *Matthew 5:10-12*. At the end of the Beatitudes Jesus reminds his followers that, "great is your reward in heaven" when times get hard. The resurrection reminds us that this life is not the end, that God has better things in store for each of us. How is that encouraging you today?

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**This Easter- "It's Not Over"**

- Have you made the death and resurrection of Jesus the beginning of your journey with God?
- Who will you invite to come along with you?