



BREAKTHROUGH

CRAIG REES

easter



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Luke 24:1-12

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ἀπορεῖσθαι
wondering – from aporeo

to be at a loss; perplexed; to lose one's way

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An empty tomb didn't prove anything
(vv2-4a).

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These women are as skeptical about the resurrection as many are today. An empty tomb didn't bring faith then and it doesn't now.

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The women are provided with messengers
to hear even though they have eyes to see
(vv4b-5a).

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The women believe not on the basis of an empty tomb but on the basis of the word of truth (vv5b-8). The empty tomb is not proof that compels reason but evidence that affirms faith.

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The church did not create the resurrection
but the resurrection created the church
(vv9-11).

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The resurrection is not proven by a woman's story, any more than it is proven by an empty tomb. These are signs, indicators, and evidences that what was declared, actually happened.

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From the outset, the church declared that Jesus' death and resurrection are parts of one incredible act where God's love and power break through to destroy the ultimate enemy, death.

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Many believe that Jesus rose from the dead and, separating it from his death as they do, carry a false hope about life after death.

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Romans 6:5-10

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To believe in Jesus' resurrection is to acknowledge that the power of death is something we experience while we live. Jesus didn't die just for us to live after we die. He died for us to live while we live. To experience the power of the resurrection when we die, we have to experience the power of death while we live. That's the Easter message.

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The message of Easter is not built on Jesus rising from the dead but Jesus rising from the dead to save us from the experience of death while we live.

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The resurrection of Jesus was a monumental moment of breakthrough.

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A breakthrough is:

- 1. An advance through and beyond an enemy's frontline defense.**
- 2. A significant achievement that removes a barrier to progress.**
- 3. When a stalemate is overcome.**

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How do we break through a spiritual stalemate?

1. We face the challenge.
2. We activate the faith we have, however small, and see what God does.

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Θαυμάζων
Wondering - from thauma
to marvel, wonder, be amazed

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“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed.”

John 20:29

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In the military, a breakthrough happens when a soldier obeys the order he's heard and boldly advances. Are you willing to obey the whisper of God and move?

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