

Get Outa Town!

Luke 24:1—12 (v. 11)

Introduction

If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. Don't get your hopes up. Take it with a grain of salt. This is how we are raised. It's a self-defense mechanism. We don't want to be disappointed if things don't pan out. We don't want to appear gullible. We don't want to be scammed. So, our response to someone who brings news that seems too good to be true might be, "Get outa town!" What the women told the disciples that Sunday morning seemed too good to be true. Why did these men think that way? At least three times they heard Jesus predict His death and resurrection. They had seen Him perform countless miracles, heal the sick, and raise the dead. Peter, speaking for the rest of the disciples, had even confessed that *He is the Christ, the Son of the living God* (**Matthew 16:16**). Was it so hard to believe His predictions came true?

Idle Talk

Luke says that these words *seemed like an idle tale to them* (**Luke 24:11**). No offense here, but women were not seen as reliable witnesses in that culture. So, these men wouldn't be inclined to take their word at face value. It's interesting, that in that climate, God chose women to be the first human witnesses of the resurrection. He wanted what seemed to be unbelievable to be told by witnesses who were thought of as unreliable.

Grief and Shame

Another factor here is grief. They were all experiencing great grief at Jesus' death. And not just because their Friend, their Lord, their Teacher had died such a horrible death. It was compounded by their actions. When the chips were down Peter had denied knowing Jesus (**Luke 22:54—62**). But all the disciples had deserted Him and abandoned Him (**Mark 14:50**). Their grief compounded with their shame made it seem too good to be true.

Illogical

Reason says that it was highly illogical to expect Jesus to be alive again. The majority of Christians don't believe that the body and blood of Jesus can be present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Reason tells them it can't be so. So, they deprive themselves of this blessing by saying that Jesus was speaking symbolically when He said, *"This is My body, ... This is My blood"* (**Luke 22:19, 20**). That's the problem with our reason. Like the rest of us, it's fallen, and cannot be trusted.

Curiosity

Peter, at least, showed some curiosity. He *rose and ran to the tomb* (v. 12). What was he thinking? Did he think Jesus had risen as He said He would? Was he just going to check it out? Did he just want to see for himself? Whatever he was thinking, he ran. He was anxious to see what was happening. When he got there, he saw the *linen cloths by themselves* (v. 12).

Confusion

And he *went home marveling at what had happened* (v. 12). After hearing the women's story and seeing the empty tomb for himself, Peter still didn't know what to think. But this is for our benefit. Leo the Great, 5th Century bishop of Rome, said: *[The holy fathers] "doubted" so that we need not doubt* (**Sermon 73.1.2.444**). You see, these are the same problems we have today. To think that we are all doomed to die for our sin, yet there is a way out that doesn't cost anything is too good to be true. To think that God loves us so much, that He gave His Son to become a man so He could die in our place is too good to be true. To think that He rose from the dead the third day so that His death would not be in vain is too good to be true. But it is!

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
