To Seek and To Save #12 “Confirmation” Luke 24:34

Preliminaries: **11:00** – Invocation following “Christ is Lord”

 Welcome! Stand and Greet… Remain standing

 Easter Litany… Hymn Christ the Lord is Risen Today.

**Intro**: Newspaper reported that OKC made list of best Easter Cities

* Weather, Egg Hunts, New clothes, Family Meals…
* What if it Rains, Broke, Alone or Away from home…
* (Forsaken, Man of Sorrows, acquainted with Grief.)
* ***Easter is not*** about denying the harsh realities of life; but about celebrating a Greater Reality --- ***The Resurrection***!

***Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!*** --- The Lord is Risen….

(Easter Acclamation; Paschal Greeting --- Russia with Triple kiss)

**ILL** – Malcolm Muggeridge Story. Jesus Rediscovered, conversion.

 Story about death of religion for Manchester Guardian

 Christ Is Risen. He Is Risen Indeed! (Russian Believers)

 When saw faces I knew they were right and Stalin was wrong!

***The Lord is Risen. He is Risen Indeed.***

**Luke 24:34** Luke 24 – Empty Tomb, Emmaus, Group, Ascension **Read**

“***Really Risen***” = *The Lord is Risen Indeed* (KJV)

**A Word of Confident Confirmation – *Indeed*.**

* Adverb Modifying Risen = *actually, certainly, Truly*

**t/s** - This one verse confirms **two Truths** about Jesus,

The First is obvious for Easter.

**Confirms the Resurrection of Jesus. No Doubt, He Lives.**

**Exp** – ***The Eleven*** Apostles had believed the testimony of Simon.

They interrupt to affirm, eager to Witness… ***Risen Indeed***!

* Surprising in light of the first time ***the eleven*** are mentioned; **Read Luke 24: 1-12**
* *Unprepared, perplexed, afraid, disbelieving…ridiculing*!

**Vs. 11** – nonsense… delirious!

 ***The Resurrection has never been easy to believe!***

**ILL** – four year olds in SS, “Does anyone know what today is?”

 Palm Sunday Next Sunday? Easter?

 “What makes Easter so special?”

 Jesus rose from the dead…. *But if he sees His shadow he has to go back in for seven weeks*!”

**App** – For many, Easter is about as factual as Ground Hog Day.

 Tradition, Myth, good clean fun…. Resurrection, ***Indeed***?

 Jesus works patiently with ***doubtful Disciples***:

 **ILL** – **Luke 18: 31-35 (Tell the Story)**

*Lord, I want to see!*

 By the End of the day, they Believe. Jesus opens their minds, their hearts, minds --- from ***Perplexity to Clarity***

(Honest Doubt vs. Stubborn Disbelief)

***The Lord has Risen Indeed!***

**Note**: If He Lives, **He is Lord**! He has a Rightful Claim on us.

 **Invitation** – *Crown Him with Many Crowns*! (Come Submit)

**T/S** – Our Confirmation deals with another kind of Doubt. This doubt is not intellectual, ***emotional***… more a matter of the heart.

**Confirms the Character of Jesus. No Doubt, He Loves.**

**Exp** – ***He has appeared to Simon***. Wow! Let that sink in…

 Jesus took the initiative to show Himself to Simon Peter.

 We do not have a detailed record of this encounter (private)

Not difficult to Imagine! **Imagine It**.

What was Simon Peter thinking when the women told of an empty tomb? Was he excited, confused, hopeful or ***afraid***?

Simon’s heart wondered two things:

1. Is He Risen?
2. ***How will He Deal with me?*** Denied hIm, ***Oh, that Look***!

(Will He ignore, cast aside, embarrass)

Our Risen Lord thought it worth His while on this first Day of Resurrection to seek out Simon Peter --- to ease His pain, to clear His mind, to settle his heart. ***He appeared to Simon***.

*The LORD is near the broken hearted*… **Psalm 34:18**

**ILL** – John Wesley, Explanatory notes on Bible (1754)

“*Jesus had, in His wonderful condescension and grace, taken the opportunity on the former part of the day to show Himself to Peter, that He might early relieve his distresses and fears*.”

**App** – Some here have doubts in your mind about the Resurrection, ***does He really Live***? But far more have lingering doubts of another kind, doubts deep in your heart, ***Does He really love***?

 He loved Simon Peter so much that he sought him ought.

 He loves you so much, He seeks you, speaks to you, even now.

Know Two Things, Indeed, This Easter. ***Lord Jesus Lives and Loves***.

***His love is unreserved, unrestrained, uncontrolled, uncontained.***