

Luke 24:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

Analysis

The women return: 'Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.' The timing: 'the first day of the week' (τῇ δὲ μιᾷ τῶν σαββάτων, *tē de mia tōn sabbatōn*), Sunday morning, 'very early' (ὄρθρου βαθέως, *orthrou batheōs*, at deep dawn). They brought 'spices which they had prepared' (ἃ ἡτοίμασαν ἀρώματα, *ha hētoimasan arōmata*) to anoint Jesus' body, a final act of devotion. They expected to find a corpse; instead they would find an empty tomb and living Lord. The 'first day of the week' becomes significant—Christians worship on Sunday rather than Saturday (Sabbath) because Jesus rose on the first day, inaugurating new creation.

Historical Context

The women's journey to the tomb demonstrates they didn't expect resurrection despite Jesus' predictions. They came to anoint a dead body. Their surprise at the empty tomb (v. 3) and initial unbelief (v. 11) establish authenticity—if the story were fabricated, inventors would present disciples confidently expecting resurrection. Instead, the accounts show confusion, doubt, and gradual recognition. The women's initiative (coming at earliest opportunity) and devotion (bringing expensive spices) models faithful discipleship. God rewards their faithfulness by making them first witnesses to resurrection, history's most

important event. Sunday worship commemorates this day of resurrection, distinguishing Christianity from Judaism.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Why is 'the first day of the week' significant for Christian worship?
2. What does the women's surprise at the empty tomb teach about resurrection expectations?
3. How does their faithful devotion despite not expecting resurrection model genuine discipleship?

Interlinear Text

τῇ G3588	δὲ G1161	μὴ G1520	τῶν G3588	σαββάτων G4521	ὄρθρου G3722	βαθέος G901
	Now			day of the week	very early in the morning	
ἦλθον G2064	ἐπὶ G1909	τὸ G3588	μνημα G3418	φέρουσαι G5342	ἃ G3739	ἠτοίμασαν G2090
they came	unto		the sepulchre	bringing	which	they had prepared
ἀρώματα G759	καί G2532	τινές G5100	σύν G4862	αὐταῖς G846		
the spices	and	certain	others with	them		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 24:10 (Parallel theme): It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

Mark 15:40 (Parallel theme): There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;

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