

# Luke 24:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

## Analysis

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The angels ask: 'Why seek ye the living among the dead?' (τί ζητεῖτε τὸν ζῶντα μετὰ τῶν νεκρῶν;). This rhetorical question rebukes the women's expectation to find Jesus' corpse and announces the resurrection. The present participle 'zōnta' (ζῶντα, the living one) contrasts with 'nekrōn' (νεκρῶν, the dead)—Jesus is not merely resurrected but is Life itself. The question implies the resurrection should not surprise those who heard Jesus' predictions (vv.6-7). The empty tomb and angelic announcement become the first gospel proclamation: He is risen. This transforms Christianity from philosophy or ethics into historical, bodily resurrection.

## Historical Context

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Women came to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week (Sunday, v.1) to complete burial rites interrupted by Sabbath. Jewish burial involved washing the body and applying spices and ointments. Finding the stone rolled away and the tomb empty, they encountered 'two men in shining garments' (v.4)—angels in human form (cf. Luke 1:26, Acts 1:10). The resurrection on the third day fulfilled Jesus' predictions (Luke 9:22, 18:33) and established Sunday as the Christian day of worship. Early Christian preaching centered on the resurrection (Acts 2:24, 4:33, 17:31).

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does the question about seeking the living among the dead challenge wrong expectations about where to find Jesus today?
2. What difference does the bodily resurrection make to Christian faith, hope, and ethics?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐμφόβων	δὲ	γενομένων	αὐτάς	καὶ	κλινουσῶν	τὸ	
<b>afraid</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>as</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>bowed down</b>	G3588	
G1719	G1161	G1096	G846	G2532	G2827		
πρόσωπον	εἰς	τὴν	γῆν	εἶπον	πρὸς	αὐτάς	Τί
<b>their faces</b>	<b>to</b>	G3588	<b>the earth</b>	<b>they said</b>	<b>unto</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>Why</b>
G4383	G1519		G1093	G2036	G4314	G846	G5101
ζητεῖτε	τὸν	ζῶντα	μετὰ	τῶν	νεκρῶν·		
<b>seek ye</b>	G3588	<b>the living</b>	<b>among</b>	G3588	<b>the dead</b>		
G2212		G2198	G3326		G3498		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 1:18** (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

**Revelation 2:8** (Parallel theme): And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

**Daniel 10:16** (Parallel theme): And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that

stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.

**Hebrews 7:8** (Parallel theme): And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

**Daniel 10:19** (Parallel theme): And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

**Luke 1:29** (Parallel theme): And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.