

## INTRODUCTION

Hey, happy Easter Fathom Church!

If you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to Luke chapter 24.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to Luke 24,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
  - under every single chair.
  - You'll find Luke 24 on page **884**.

## INTRODUCTION

Hey, I want you to turn to the person next to you...

- and say this to them,
  - *"He is risen!"*
- Now say back to them,
  - *"He is risen, indeed!"*
- Now say the best thing you can ever say to someone...say,
  - *"You look like you've lost weight!"*

Alright! We've been in a sermon series...

- working our way through the Old Testament book...
- of **SLIDE 2 SAMUEL**
  - which tells of the rise and fall of King David.

And next Sunday we get to chapter 11,

- which is where we find the most famous event of the book...
- the story of David and Bathsheba.
  - And even if you're new to Bible Study,
  - you've likely heard of David and Bathsheba,
  - their affair, and the mess surrounding it.

But since it's Easter...I won't be preaching David and Bathsheba.

But I'd love to invite you to come back next Sunday to hear that one,

- we're gonna talk about sexual sin...
- and the havoc it can reap in our lives.

## ILLUSTRATION: THE KING

But Easter is deeply connected to 2 Samuel,

- because it chronicles the founding of the Israel's Kings.
  - And Jesus Christ was called...
    - the King of Kings...
    - who reigns on the throne of David.

So, I asked some people what came to mind when they thought of *the King* and the answers I got were pretty solid.

- Some said **SLIDE** Lebron James, also known as King James.
- **SLIDE** Elvis who was known as the King of Rock and Roll.
- If you're a child of the 80s like me,
  - you might think **SLIDE** Michael Jackson, the King of Pop.
- Maybe you think of **SLIDE** the King of England...King Charles.
- And then there's this big weirdo...**SLIDE**...alright?

But here's what came up in my Google search when I looked up the King...

### **SLIDE** CHESS

Chess. Chess is a game with 32 pieces going against one another.

- It's dark vs. light.
  - You've got the pawns,
  - you've got the bishops,
  - you've got knights, rooks, a queen,
  - and then you've got the king.

And if you play this game, there's really only one goal.

- You play the game strategically...
- so that eventually the king is trapped.
  - And there's nowhere for him to move.

And when the king is trapped...and there's no other move to be made...

then the player says this word: **SLIDE CHECKMATE**

- Checkmate is when the game is over.
- Checkmate is when there are no more moves to save the King.
  - Your opponent has won.

In fact, I read on chess.com...

- that the word CHECKMATE,
- originates from an Arabic term meaning,
  - *"The king is dead."*

## ILLUSTRATION: PAINTING

Now, a friend of mine at a church in Texas told me about this illustration.

- So, there's this painting from a German painter from 1831...
- that depicts the Devil playing chess with a man.

Here's that painting **SLIDE**

And the title of this painting is literally CHECKMATE.

- So, you've got the Devil on the left...
- and a guy on the right.
  - And the painting is trying to depict the Devil...
  - making moves against this man...
  - to the point where this man becomes hopeless...
  - and there are no moves left.

It's **SLIDE CHECKMATE**

## TRANSITION

And that's where we left things on Friday night.

- We call it Good Friday...
  - and it was good.
    - Yes and amen.
- But on the first Good Friday,
  - they weren't calling it "good."
- Because Jesus was dead.

Their king had come to his CHECKMATE and lost.

But today we know that death was not the end of the story.

- So, let's look at the text together today.

Luke chapter 24 starting in verse 1.

## LUKE 24:1

[1] But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

## EXPLAIN: SUNDAY MORNING

So, this is the first day of the week, or Sunday.

And the first to come to the tomb after the Sabbath, were a few women.

- Most notably,
  - Mary Magdalene...
  - and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

And they were in deep mourning...

- from the events of the last three days.

Just three days earlier...

- Jesus was betrayed,
- sentenced to death,
- and was crucified.
  - They had witnessed it.
  - Their hearts were broken.
  - Their long-awaited Messiah was dead.

It was CHECKMATE.

And in the rush of things,

- before the Sabbath...
  - when they were forbidden to touch a dead body,
- they had laid Jesus in a rich man's tomb,
- but hadn't been able to prepare the body completely.
  - So, now these women approach the tomb...
  - with spices...
  - to give Jesus the proper burial.

Verse 2:

### **LUKE 24:2-3**

[2] And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, [3] but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. [4] While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. [5] And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

## EXPLAIN: STONE

So, they show up, and they see the stone rolled away.

- You ever wondered WHY the stone was rolled away?
  - You're like, "Well, that's a dumb question, Pastor..."
  - it's so Jesus could get out."
- But hold on a sec...in like 30 verses or so, in Luke 24:36,
  - Jesus is just gonna...
  - miraculously appear to his disciples...
  - in the upper room.
    - Like doors and locks and such...
    - don't seem to affect the resurrected Jesus.

So, I'll ask again:

- WHY was the stone rolled away?
  - It wasn't so that he could get out.
  - It was so that they could get in.
  - God wanted to SHOW them the truth of the resurrection!

But they don't see that body...

Remember...it's CHECKMATE.

Verse 4:

### LUKE 24:4-7

[4] While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. [5] And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? [6] He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, [7] that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

## EXPLAIN: SHOCKED

Now, these two dazzling men,

- probably angels...
- show up and start speaking to the women.

And they say something fascinating.

- They say, *“Don’t you remember?”*
- *He TOLD you this was going to happen!”*

You see, all through Jesus’ life and ministry...

- He...like, on repeat...
- TOLD his followers that this was going to happen to him.
  - That he was going to be killed,
  - and then rise from the dead.

So, not only was God...

- trying to SHOW them the truth of the resurrection.
- They had been TOLD about it MANY times!

And so, this angel is like,

- *“I’m shocked you’re shocked!”*
- *I’m surprised you’re surprised!*
- *We thought you’d be waiting at the tomb just counting down.*
  - *TEN!*
  - *NINE!*
  - *EIGHT!*
  - *SEVEN!*
  - *Move that rock!”*

But it’s like the CHECKMATE trumped all that stuff in their minds.

Well, the women start to believe, cause look at what they do.

Verse 8:

## LUKE 24:8-10

[8] And they remembered his words, [9] and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. [10] Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,

## EXPLAIN: APOSTLES

So, the original spice girls drop what they're doing...

- and they run to tell the Apostles all they'd seen and heard.
  - They tell them about the rolled away stone.
  - And they tell them they went in...
    - but there wasn't a body.
  - And they tell them about the angels.
  - And they tell them about how baffled the angel was...
    - that they forgot what Jesus had told them.

So, the apostles have a fresh reminder about the things Jesus told them.

But remember...it's CHECKMATE.

Verse 11:

## LUKE 24:11-12

[11] but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. [12] But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.



## APPLICATION: ALL THE THINGS

They did not believe them.

Hey church, did you know...

- that it's possible for you...
  - to know all the things...
  - and miss the main thing.

Cause, like, I look around here this morning, and honestly, y'all look great.

- Like, you all LOOK like you're saved.
- You all LOOK like Christians...
  - with your pastels...
  - and your khakis...
  - and your hair all nice.

And listen, maybe you've even been in church for a while,

- and so, you know all the church things.
  - You bring your Bible to church,
    - so that when I say,
      - *"if you've got you Bibles...."*
      - *and I hope you do..."*
    - you're like, "Of course I do!"
  - And you even scribble down notes.
    - You know that's how white people...
    - affirm a preacher, don't you?
      - My black pastor friends,
      - man, their people talk back to them,
        - *"Amen!"*
        - *"Preach!"*
        - *"Say it!"*

- Y'all do the nod and scribble.
  - Hey, I appreciate the nod and scribble!
- But you know the songs.
- You know the flow.
- Maybe you're even the person, who,
  - while I'm preaching,
  - you'll get on Instagram and post a pic,
    - "Pastor Chris is killing it today.
    - 👏 (praise hands), 👏, 🔥, 🔥, 🔥!"

You know all the things!

Gosh, you knew what you were getting here today.

- I mean, come on now, it's Easter.
- We're a Christian church.

I heard a comedian say,

- "My pastor gets mean emails that say,
  - 'this Easter service sounds a lot like the one...
  - from a few years ago.'
- And he'll respond,
  - "Yeah...
    - the material has not changed...
      - and the author is always listening...
        - and he has a violent history....
  - so I gotta be careful..."

But...

- you can know all things...
- and still miss the main thing.

They did not believe them.

## APPLICATION: BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

And that means, listen...

- if you've EVER been to an Easter service before...
  - now, we've a bunch of new believers at Fathom...
  - so, today may be your first Easter.
    - And if that's the case, man, that's awesome!
- But if it's NOT your first Easter...
- then I'm probably not giving you NEW INFORMATION.

The very most basic Gospel INFORMATION is this:

- Jesus died on the cross for your sin,
- and resurrected on the third day.

Most of you have probably heard that...it's probably not NEW information.

But friends, do you BELIEVE that?

See, I think the MOST important question in our text today is in verse 5:

- **Why do you seek the living among the dead?**
  - That is THE question, my friends.
- Where are you seeking life?

Cause most of us seek to find life in all the wrong places.

- We seek to find life in our jobs,
  - or in our life experiences,
- in our kids,
  - or our marriages,
- in the stuff we buy,
  - or in food and drink...

Gosh, we seek to find life in so many places...

- but I'd pose the same question to us,
- **Why do you seek the living among the dead?**

Those things won't lead to life!

- Each one of those things will ultimately lead you...
  - to a CHECKMATE...
- They cannot fulfill you.
- They were never meant to!

But the message of Easter...the message of Christianity is this:

- Jesus Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate,
  - was crucified,
  - died...
  - and was buried;
- and on the third day he rose again from the dead.

THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

- The very thing that shattered Jesus' follower's hopes...
  - that he was dead...
  - that he had lost...
  - that hope was gone...
  - that this was CHECKMATE...
- is the very thing that I proclaim to you today.
  - "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"
  - He is not here, but has risen."

## CONCLUSION

So, let me bring this home. For many of us today, life can feel like CHESS.

- Life can feel like a series of moves,
  - and you can get to a spot...
  - where you begin to feel like all hope is lost...
  - there are no moves left...

And you're left in CHECKMATE.

- Maybe it's a relational CHECKMATE...
  - like your marriage was already rocky...
  - and then she found your browsing history.
- Perhaps it's a financial CHECKMATE...
  - things were already tight...
  - and then you got laid off.
- Or it could be a health CHECKMATE...
  - you've spent so much time and effort...
  - trying to be healthy...
  - only to receive the diagnosis that the cancer is terminal.
- Or gosh, I think there are spiritual CHECKMATES...
  - where you've got questions...
  - and you've got doubts...
  - and you don't know what to believe...
  - and it just all sounds so crazy.

And it feels like CHECKMATE.

## **ILLUSTRATION: PAINTING**

So, back to that painting from my intro...I'll put it up here again **SLIDE**

I want to tell you a story about this painting.

- You see, the devil is on the left,
  - and he's kinda smirking,
- while on the other side of the board sits the young man...
  - who looks to be in deep despair.
  - He's losing.

And if you know anything about chess,

- you know that chess masters,
- can see many moves ahead.
  - They can plan and strategize.

And so the point of this painting...

- is that the devil is gonna win this game.
  - The devil is gonna trap his king.
  - The devil is going to declare CHECKMATE.
- In just a few moves...
- this guy will have to turn over his soul...
- to the devil.

But about 50-years after this painting was created,

- a famous American chess master...
- by the name of Paul Morphy...
- came across a reproduction of the painting...
- at a dinner party.

And because Morphy was such a famous chess player,

- the guests asked him to assess the young man's situation.
- And when Morphy looked at the position of the chess pieces,
- he agreed that the young man's position was hopeless.
  - He had lost the game.

The conversation at the dinner party turned to other topics.

- But Morphy remained before the painting...
  - just staring at it.

And after some time,

- he became excited...
- and began to shout for them...
- to bring him a chessboard.
  - Then Morphy recreated the situation,
  - and showed the amazed guests...
  - that the young man could move his king...
  - to a certain square and still win the game.

And he made this declaration:

**SLIDE W/PADS THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE**

## ENDING

Hey, I want you to hear me on this Fathom Church.

- Many people think that when you come to your CHECKMATE...
  - it's done...
  - it's over...
  - all hope is lost.
- But the message of Easter is...
  - THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE.
    - If the tomb is empty...
    - then the KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE.

We worship a God who,

- when all hope was lost...
- on the darkest day in history...
- when he was in his CHECKMATE...
- showed us all that our king always had one more move.

- The tomb is empty...
- Death is defeated...
- Sin is paid for...
- Jesus is alive...

**And if THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE...**

**Then, liste, he has ONE MORE MOVE in your life, too!**

- Chains can be broken...
- Addictions can be freed...
- Relationships can be restored...

I've seen it!

- He's got one more move in your life.
- He's got one more move in your finances.
- He's got one more move in your marriage.
- He's got one more move in your family.

THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE...but...

There's something you've gotta do.

- You've gotta give him your life.
  - Have you done this?
  - Have you surrendered to Jesus?
    - If not, and you want to, here's how.

**SLIDE ROMANS 10:9**

**If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

Now, that sounds so simple...but it's deeply profound.



- You have to **confess with your mouth...**
  - not just privately in your heart.
    - We say it like this:
    - you go public with your faith.
  - So, if you want to surrender to Jesus...
  - I'd encourage you like this: tell someone.
    - Tell me...
    - Tell a friend or family member...
    - Tell someone.

But then it also says to

- **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead.**
  - That means that at the core of your being,
    - you really believe that this is the great mystery...
    - this is the thing I never saw coming...
      - this is the solution to my CHECKMATE.

That Jesus Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
and on the third day he rose again from the dead.

**SLIDE THE TOMB IS EMPTY!**

Do you believe it?

And so, to end, I'll quote Pastor Joby Martin.

He says this:

- if the tomb is empty, anything is possible...
- even you believing.

Let's pray.

## RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – [fathomchurch.org/give](http://fathomchurch.org/give)
- PRAYER - [fathomchurch.org/prayer](http://fathomchurch.org/prayer)
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

## RESOURCES CONSULTED:

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- Howerton, Josh. *Easter 2023*.
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- Martin, Joby. Anything Is Possible.