

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022
Summary of On the Third Day
Luke 24:1-12
Wayne Shelton

(focal: vv6-7)

Luke 24 is replete with surprises as three most unexpected, challenging and thrilling scenes unfold. Two themes dominate: first, Jesus was alive – the unthinkable had happened; second, the reason for his death is explained. There would have been no joy in the hearts of a small group of women who took spices they had prepared for the proper burial of Jesus on that Sunday morning (24:1). On this morning after the Sabbath they were consumed with an overwhelming grief and sense of loss. But that was not all, for when they reached the tomb, they found the stone sealing the opening had been rolled away and the body was gone. Perplexed and shaken they were totally out of their depth (24:2-3). And now there was another surprise: *suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling apparel* (24:4). The angels asked an enigmatic question: *‘Why do you seek the living among the dead?’* Then the angels said something that was stunning and unexpected. In their shock and grief it would have seemed surreal: *‘He is not here, but has risen’* (24:6). Don’t think of Jesus as dead, but alive. The angels stress the word of Jesus that the women had neglected but now can remember (8). What was that word? The visitors rehearse it for their convenience: *‘He is not here but has risen. Remember how he spoke to you while he was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be handed over into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise again’* (vv6-7).