

## No Idle Tale Luke 24:1-12

24 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. 3 Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"

8 And they remembered His words. 9 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened. NKJV

On October 30, 1938, radio listeners were stunned to hear a series of news reports over CBS radio that the earth was under invasion from Mars. For almost 40 minutes, without commercial interruptions Orson Welles gave report after horrified report about Martian ships landing and defeating the armed forces. There was no evidence that anyone could see of an invasion, yet many people were convinced. But none more than in Concrete, Washington, where part way through the show there was an explosion at the town's electric substation which lit up the sky and plunged the entire town of about 1,000 people into darkness, and with no telephone service. Now they were believers, but wrongly.

Of course there was no invasion just a dramatic reading of HG Wells' book *War of the Worlds*.

When the women came from the tomb with the message that Jesus was not there but raised from the dead the disciples considered their testimony as an "idle tale."

Even today, many non-Christians and some so-called Christians alike consider this as an "idle tale."

- I. Without the resurrection of Jesus, you cannot explain the conversion of James, the Lord's brother.
  - A. John 7:1-5 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. 3 His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him. NKJV
  - B. James was one of those brothers that did not believe that Jesus was who He

claimed.

- C. Yet later we find James willing to lay down his life for this Messiah.
  - 1. He had nothing to gain from following the disciples, if he did not believe.
  - 2. But he did, and there is no explanation other than he saw the risen Lord.
- II. Without the resurrection you cannot explain the conversion of the apostle Paul.
  - A. This man had staked everything on the destruction of Christianity.
  - B. He was zealous for the cause.
  - C. But on the road to Damascus, Paul met the risen Lord and he was willing to suffer for Him even to the point of death.
- III. Without the resurrection, you cannot explain why the apostles would die for their faith.
  - A. Many people have died for a lie.
  - B. Some of died for what they knew was a lie.
  - C. But if these disciples knew that Jesus was not risen from the dead, then you cannot explain why at least one of them would not recant their story.
    - 1. But there never was such a claim by the enemies of Jesus.
- IV. Without the resurrection of Jesus, I cannot explain the spiritual work he has done in my life.
  - A. Not only me but untold millions.
  - B. He takes the drunkard and makes him a godly man.
  - C. He takes the prostitute and makes he chaste.
  - D. He takes the murder and makes him kind.
  - E. He change anyone. That's the power of the resurrection.