***Luke 24:1-7 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. 2But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. 3Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. 5Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’***

This morning, we baptized two beautiful souls. It’s a blessing that, in baptism, we see a representation of the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Romans 6:4-5 says *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection*. Sharon and Randy, when we die to sin, we live to Christ. Let every day be a service to Christ, an expectant waiting for His reappearance. Let Him find you waiting and watching with excitement, no matter the day or the hour He returns.

Jesus spoke plainly about His resurrection. Matthew 16:21, Mark 8:31, Luke 9:22, Matthew 17:22-23 (which is what the men in shining garments are referring to in our verses today), Luke 9:44-45, and Matthew 20:18-19. Not once, not twice, but on at least three separate occasions. Plain spoken does not always translate to plainly understood. We can only plainly understand when we have the Holy Spirit indwelling and revealing the Word to us.

Our verses reveal that these women had followed after Jesus from Galilee and observed where the body was laid. These women were with Him in Galilee when He spoke in Matthew 17:22-23. But in our first verse this morning, we find that they *came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.* They brought spices expecting to find a body that He told them they would not find. They run to tell the Apostles, who Jesus had also told. In verse 11, the Apostles thought the women telling *idle tales, and did not believe them*. Why would this be? Luke 9:45 says it was hidden from their understanding, and they were afraid to ask Him.

The two men in shining garments ask - *Why do you seek the living among the dead?* *He is not here, but is Risen!* Why do you bring spices to prepare the dead for decaying? Why do you seek a dead body when eternal life has been promised and delivered? At least three times, that Promise was made. Resurrection guaranteed! Yet, when the morning broke and that empty tomb was exposed, spices had been prepared, sadness walked, and great confusion reigned.

My friends, this morning, that Promise of Resurrection and Eternal Life is as alive today as it was all those years ago. We too have been made promises – John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* He promises that He has gone to prepare a place for us, that we will be given the Helper, and that He will give us Peace in John 14, that He will be with us always in Matthew 28, and He is coming again in Revelation 22. Are we like the servants in Luke 12:36 *- And you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately*. Are we waiting, trusting and living in Jesus’ Promises? See, we have all been told, just as His followers were told. Do we live each day with complete confidence that today may be that day when the Master returns and we open that door and see His Face? Maybe, just maybe today will be that day my friends… but, if not, I will go to sleep tonight excited, expectantly waiting, sitting by the Spiritual doorway, knowing that tomorrow might be the day, when My Jesus’ Face I see. He lives! And because He Lives, I live in Him as well.