

Sense or Nonsense

(Easter 2019)

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”

⁸Then they remembered his words.

⁹When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹²Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. (Luke 24:1-12)

A. One of the primary tasks of life is to make sense out of the nonsense

B. For three years, the disciples had followed Jesus. It was idyllic

1. Jesus kept saying, “Remember, this is not going to last forever”
2. Then it happened just as Jesus said it would

C. How do you make sense of nonsense?

1. Our answer determines our worldview
2. Our worldview determines our life’s mission and our eternal destiny

JUDAS’ PATH (Not recommended)

A. Judas chose the path of despair

1. Judas said it doesn’t make sense and there isn’t anything even God can do

*“Meaningless, meaningless! Utterly meaningless. Everything is meaningless”
(Ecclesiastes 1:2)*

2. Many believe you can’t make sense of nonsense or never actually try

B. That’s actually the way the universe is described before God stepped in

“In the beginning...the earth was without form and empty” (Genesis 1:2)

1. Without God, formless and empty are the best we can hope for
2. But God stepped in - both in our creation and in our redemption

C. Judas obviously sinned. But was his sin any worse than Peter’s?

1. We mess up and God still loves us, provides for us, uses us
2. Peter believed God could step into his chaos; Judas didn't think he could

THE WOMEN AND DISCIPLE’S PATH (The typical, but not ideal path)

A. Christ’s followers heard Good News but had no idea what to do with it

“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning...” (Luke 24:1)

1. They were surprised the tombstone was rolled away
2. Then they remembered. But it still didn't make any sense
3. It’s hard to believe promises you have never before seen kept

*“[They] did not believe the women because their words seemed to them like nonsense.”
(Luke 24:11)*

B. Its incredibly difficult to make sense of nonsense

1. We have seen the rest of the story. But unless it impacts our life, it’s just useless information
2. It makes no sense to take what we know/believe and not apply it

THE NARROW PATH (The Recommended Path)

A. This path is narrow because so few people walk it

1. Those who travel this path believe it is God who makes sense of nonsense
2. Sadly, we often live as if Christ has not been raised
3. Either we believe in God and he sets our path or we’re just playing church

B. Jesus, out of his love for us, gave up everything...

1. If we would follow him, we need to give up everything for him
2. Its not about playing church, its about being his church
3. If we have faith, God can move and remove mountains

C. Christ is Risen. Christ is Alive. Christ makes sense of nonsense

1. Hold on to your faith no matter how great the mountainous obstacles appear
2. Keep on remembering: where God is, meaning, healing and joy will come