



## Easter Sunday 2006

### “Called up.”

Luke 24:1-12.

**Listen:** There is hardly anything more thrilling than being called up to the big leagues.

- For Example: being chosen as a partner in the firm, making the varsity team, getting the offer for a new job, becoming a starter on the team, getting accepted into grad school, being chosen to give the class reunion speech, getting elected as class president, receiving the city’s top award, or hearing that your house sold.
- Daydreaming about “The Call.”
- The Rookie. Jim Morris is called up to the big leagues.

**Why are we talking about this?** There is something thrilling about being called up. Today, Easter Sunday of 2006, God is calling each one of us up to something—to something greater and better and more thrilling than last year.

- Today’s message is for everyone except those who are completely satisfied with their past year of life. If last year was exactly what you wanted your life to be and if you are planning to repeat that wonderful year again this year—don’t listen.
- If your past year was not what you wanted it to be—this message is for you.

**Luke 24:1-12.** The Easter story is about the most important “call up” in human history.

- First day of the week:
- Spices:
- Did not find Jesus’ body:
- Why do you seek the living among the dead:
  
- Son of Man:
- Delivered into:
- Crucified:
- The third day rise again:
  
- Peter marveled:

**Easter Idea:** God called Jesus up out of the grave to offer us eternal life. Today God is calling you up to something better.

For some of you, today God is calling you **up to eternal life with Him.**

- Your past year: fear, uncertainty, anxiety, confusion, hopelessness.
- Your call:

For some of you, today God is calling you **up to a consistent walk with Him.**

- Your past year: boredom, loneliness, listlessness, coasting, vegging.
- Your call:

For some of you, today God is calling you **up to greater impact for Him.**

- Your past year: pressing on with good stuff and wondering about “more.”
- Your call:

**For Instance:**

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# “Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.

**The Central Idea:** God called Jesus up out of the grave to offer us eternal life. Today God is calling you up to something better.

**Following Christ is a daily deal:**

- **Today:** If you have never put your trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins—today is the best day to do that. God is calling you up to eternal life.
- **Monday:** If you have never connected with other believers in a church or small group—today God is calling you to that.
- **Tuesday:** If you have never been consistent in your relationship with God through His Word and prayer—today He is calling you to start.
- **Wednesday:** If you have not been a consistent servant to your family—today God is calling you up to that.
- **Thursday:** If you are not using your gifts and talents to serve others—today God is calling you up to that.
- **Friday:** If you have some piece of your life that is a bondage to you—today God is calling you up to freedom, to ask for help, and to break free.
- **Saturday:** **If you are ready for the next step, for the big leagues in the Christian walk, for something deeper and greater in the faith—today God is calling you up to something.** And, today I am inviting you to the April 30<sup>th</sup> State of the Church Address at 9 AM or 10:40 AM. Listen for the call on that day.