

The Empty Tomb | Matthew 28:1-6

This past Monday, I had lunch with some Pastor friends.

I ordered a glass of water & was enjoying a salad, while waiting on my entrée.

But I was really putting the water away & my glass was empty before I knew it.

So I was watching for the waitress to try & get a refill.

It's funny how we get restless when we encounter things in our lives that are empty.

All three of our children are grown & on many occasions, we have an empty house.

Once in a while, I'll reach into the cookie jar & find it empty.

I've gotten a little better with money, but when I was younger - the bank account stayed empty.

Unfortunately, some among us can be lonely & they can even have a heart that is empty.

We are programmed to keep things full – not empty.

However there is something that should want to find empty & that is the place where JESUS was laid.

The title of my message today is “The Empty Tomb”.

Matthew 28:1-6

The Christian faith hinges on the fact that the Tomb is Empty.

Undoubtedly the greatest event in human history, the Resurrection of JESUS changes everything.

It is so important that those who claim to be Christian HAVE to believe in the Resurrection.

It's the one thing that sets Christianity apart from other religions & without the Resurrection, mankind has no hope.

1 Corinthians 15:14 ~ And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain.

It is “The Empty Tomb” that seals the deal, an exclamation mark that death is defeated.

Christians have no foundation for our faith – if there isn't an Empty Tomb.



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Here are some things we can learn about & be encouraged that there is, in fact - *“The Empty Tomb”*.

1. HATRED TOWARDS JESUS – Matthew 27:27-31

- ✝ Matthew 28:11 ~ Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.
- ✝ Matthew 28:12 ~ And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,
- ✝ Matthew 28:13 ~ Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.
- ✝ Matthew 28:14 ~ And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.
- ✝ Matthew 28:15 ~ So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

The religious people hated JESUS so much, that they were willing to fabricate a false narrative, that HIS body was stolen – instead of admitting to the fact that HE had risen.

Yet, GOD loved man so much – that HE subjected HIMSELF to the death, to the cross but also to the mocking of mankind – even with an Empty Tomb.

2. HATRED TOWARDS SIN

- ✝ Isaiah 53:5 ~ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
- ✝ Isaiah 53:6 ~ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

GOD hates our sin & yet HE loves us so much.

HE was willing to face what HE hated & take the punishment, so HE could be with the creation HE loves.



3. PROMISE OF DEATH

- ✝ Romans 5:12 ~ Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
- ✝ Hebrews 9:27 ~ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

“The Empty Tomb” reminds us that we must face death – because of our sin.

4. PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE

- ✝ John 2:19 ~ Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
- ✝ John 3:17 ~ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Those who have trusted in Christ, have the promise to live forever.

1 Corinthians 15:20 ~ But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

1 Corinthians 15:21 ~ For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

Are you discouraged today - look to “The Empty Tomb”!

Are you facing an impossible challenge - look to “The Empty Tomb”!

Do you feel defeated - look to “The Empty Tomb”!

Does life seem overwhelming - look to “The Empty Tomb”!

CONCLUSION: *For eternal life – look to “The Empty Tomb”!*

