

“THE EMPTY TOMB”

Text: Luke 24:1-12, 36-53

Subject: What Happened At The Empty Tomb?

At The Place Called Calvary

1. Jesus absorbed the wrath of God upon Himself (Galatians 3:13)
2. Jesus justified us before a Holy God. (Romans 5:9)
3. Jesus paid a debt we could not pay. (II Corinthians 5:21)
4. Jesus conquered the lie of condemnation. (Romans 8:1)
5. Jesus freed us from the chains of our past. (I Peter 1:18)
6. Jesus enabled us to live a righteous life. (I Peter 2:24)
7. Jesus gave us access into the very presence of God. (I John 2:2)

What Is The Empty Tomb Saying To Us Today? That Christ Rose From The Dead Is A Historical Fact

1. **Psalm 16:10 prophesied that Jesus would rise from the dead:**
“For you God will not allow your godly one to rot in the grave.”
2. **Jesus Himself prophesied that He would rise from the dead in Matthew 12:40:** *“For as Jonah was three nights in the whale’s belly, so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”*
3. **It was the gospel message of the early church:** Peter said, *“We are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they slew and hanged on a tree; Him, God raised up the third day and shewed Him openly.”* (Acts 10:39, 40)
4. **Jesus was seen at least 13 times after he was risen from the dead:** (Who saw Him?)
 1. Mary Magdalene
 2. The women returning from the tomb
 3. Peter
 4. The disciples on the Emmaus road
 5. The apostles
 6. Seven by the lake of Tiberius
 7. James at Bethany
 8. Paul near Damascus
 9. Stephen near Jerusalem
 10. Paul in the temple
 11. 500 believers in Galilee
 12. A multitude at His ascension
 13. John on the Isle of Patmos
5. **Jesus testified Himself that He had died and risen again in Revelation 1:18** (He said :)
“I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death.”
 - The resurrection proves that Jesus is Jesus!
 - It proves that Jesus is the Savior!
 - It proves that Jesus is who He said he was!
 - It proves that our faith is not in vain!
 - It proves that we have everything to live for!

Even Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:8

“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead.”

The question is:

- What happened at the empty tomb?
- And what difference does it make in your life today?

I. **At The Empty Tomb God Reveals That Your Salvation Is Paid For:**

(Romans 4:25) *“Who (Jesus) was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.”*

It’s a two-fold promise

1. **“Christ was delivered of our offenses”** (Which means)

- His death was a reality
- His death was payment for sin.
- His death made it possible for God to forgive us.
- His death had atoning power to cover sin.

2. **“And was raised again for our justification”** (Means)

Question: How do we know Jesus takes away sin?

Question: How do we know our sins are gone from our account?

(Romans 4:25) ***“He was raised again for our justification.”*** (Which means)

- Easter is the seal that Jesus did the job.
- Easter is God’s endorsement that His justice has been fulfilled.
- Easter is heaven’s approval that the Father has accepted His Son’s payment for sin.
- Easter is the divine assurance that your justification has been secured!

I Peter 2:24 Records

“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree.”

(But how do we know God’s holy demand was satisfied?)

- ◆ Easter declared that Jesus lives!
- ◆ And His life is the guarantee of our justification!

How do we know it?

- ◆ Because if our substitute had not fully paid the debt for sin, Jesus would still be under the power of death!

How can we be sure? – Romans 8:33

*“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifies. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, **yea rather, that is risen again.**”*

In other words

- Easter proves that God was pleased with what Jesus did (and)
- Easter proves that you can now live free from all guilt and condemnation (and enjoy the power of clear conscience).

II. **At the Empty Tomb, God Renews In Us A “Lively Hope”**

(I Peter 1:3) *“Blessed be the God and the father who has begotten us again unto a lively hope. (How?) By the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”*

- It’s an outburst of joy from Peter’s lips!
- It’s an outburst of power and praise from his heart!
- It’s a characteristic of all true believers!

What’s the big deal?

- Peter is writing to believers who are suffering great persecution.
- In v. 1:6, the believers were **“in heaviness from manifold temptations.”**
- In v. 1:7, there was a **“a great trial of faith”**
- In v. 1:8, Peter declares, we rejoice anyway with **“joy unspeakable and full of glory.”**

Remember now, this is Peter

- After the crucifixion, Peter was downcast, despondent and despairing.
- So much so was Peter hurting, that he turned to the other disciples and said. “I’m going fishing.” (Or, I need to just get away for a while and collect my thoughts).

But in I Peter he declares: *“Blessed be the name of the Lord.”*

What transformed his heart?

- It was Easter Sunday when the resurrection begot in him a **lively hope!**

What is a “lively hope”?

- It is a hope that is certain and substantial.
- It is a hope that is vibrant and full of power.
- It is a hope that can hold us in great trial.
- It is a hope that sustains us in pain and sorrow.
- It is a hope that enables us to go through the very worst that life can throw our way!

Question: What does it mean that God’s abundant mercy has **“begotten us again” to a lively hope?**

Answer: The words **“begotten again”** mean **“born again”**

- It means our lively hope comes through the new birth (or being born again).
- It refers to regeneration of new life within.
- It means that believers have:
 1. A renewed spirit within them (and)
 2. One day will receive a renewed body in resurrection.

Fact: The unbeliever has no **“lively hope”**

Fact: Until you are born again, you cannot know this lively hope.

Fact: The natural man cannot have it. (Ephesians 2:12)

Fact: It is an internal hope that is active, only for the ones begotten again (or born again).

III. At The Empty Tomb, God Removes All Fear Of Dying

Read Philippians 1:21, 23

“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

“For I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”

In other words

- Jesus died and rose again to give you a glorious hope. (What is it?)
- It is the guarantee that immediately upon your death your soul will be in heaven, while your body is in the grave.

This is the meaning of Philippians 1:21
“To live is Christ, and to die is (what?) gain.”

Question: What is there “to gain when the believer dies?”

Paul said:

“My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.” (Philippians 1:23)

I Thessalonians 5:10 is clear:

“Jesus died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep, we might live with Him.”

II Corinthians 5:8 is clear:

“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”

In other words:

- When the body dies, we don’t go into some kind of “soul sleep”. (No way!)
- We go home, we see Jesus, we have it **far better**, and we have “**great gain**”.
- Yes, we await our resurrected body when the Lord returns.
- But until we receive that glorified body, **we live with Christ in heaven.**

Easter Sunday means...

- That when our body dies and waits in the grave for the rapture, **the Christian is present in the presence of the Lord!!!**

IV. At The Empty Tomb, God Reassures You Of Your Own Personal Resurrection

Read Romans 6:5

“For if we have been united with him in death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.”

Question: Did Jesus really obtain resurrection from the dead for you and me?

Question: Will all of us saved really be raised in an incorruptible body?

Question: Has death really been swallowed up in victory by Jesus?

I Corinthians 6:14

“God raised the Lord and will also raise you up by His power.”

- You, my friend, will be resurrected from the grave and obtain your own personal resurrected glorified body!

Question: How many of you are looking forward to a brand new body?

Question: How many of you could handle the rapture if it occurred today?

Know what Easter means?

1. It means that one day the believer will be in heaven with a brand new body.
2. It means you’ll not be some vague spirit floating back and forth.
3. It means a four-fold body change. (I Corinthians 15:42-52)

“Behold, I show you a mystery we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.” (v. 51)

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

(v. 52)

It's a four-fold body change (v. 42-44)

1. The body is sown in corruption (raised in **incorruption**).
2. The body is sown in dishonor (raised in **glory**).
3. The body is sown in weakness (raised in **power**).
4. The body is sown in a natural body (raised in a **spiritual body**).

What does it all mean?

It means:

1. We're put in the ground, but will come out of the ground.
2. We're buried out of sight, but will one day be seen again.
3. We're embalmed and subject to decay, but will be raised with a glorified body.

Why?

Verse 54 – Death is swallowed up in victory!

The words “**swallowed up**” mean;

1. “To absorb”
2. “To drown out”
3. “To destroy”
4. “To remove”
5. “To abolish”

Fact: The power of death will be **destroyed** and brought to an end. (How?)
(Verse 57) *“Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

...No more graves,
...No more Aspirin, Anacin, Bufferin, Tylenol,
...No more doctors, prescriptions, hospitals, ambulances,
...No more funeral homes, coroners, death certificates or caskets.
...No more goodbyes, tears, flowers or cemetery lots to pick out.
...No more death, sorrow, loneliness, widows or widowers.

Why not?

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

A Promise for The Saved!!!

(I Thessalonians 4:17) *“So shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

(II Corinthians 4:14) *“Knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also.”*

(John 14:19) *“Because I live, ye shall live also.”*

V. At The Empty Tomb, God Rescues Us From The Future Final Judgment.

I Thessalonians 1:10

“We wait for the Son from heaven, who was raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

Question: What is the wrath to come?

Answer: It is the final judgment that awaits the unsaved person.

Question: Why did Jesus die and rise again?

Answer: To give us eternal life and save us from eternal separation from God.

Question: Are heaven and hell two real places?

Answer: Matthew 26:46, *“These will go away, some into eternal life and some into eternal punishment.”*

Fact: There is only one bad thing about the resurrection. (What is it?)

Fact: Not everyone will enjoy it!

(Daniel 12:2) *“Those that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to everlasting damnation.”*

(John 5:28, 29) *“All that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth; some to the resurrection of life, and some to the resurrection of damnation.”*

Ask: Which group will you be in?

Ask: Which direction will you be going in?

Ask: Which eternity are you preparing for?

Remember:

◆ What happens to you on **that day** is determined by ◆ What you do on **this day!**

Someone once said that there are seven seasons in life:

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. The Thrills | 3. The Hills | 5. The Chills | 7. The Wills |
| 2. The Spills | 4. The Ills | 6. The Pills | |

In an old British cemetery near Windsor Castle, there is a tombstone with this inscription:

“Pause my friend as you walk by,
As you are now so once was I,
As I am now so you will be,
Prepare my friend to follow me.” (A passerby added these two lines)

“To follow you is not my intent, until I know which way you went.”

Do you know which way you are going?

VI. At the Empty Tomb, God Revives us to Live a Consecrated Life.

(Romans 8:11) *“But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal body.”*

- The word “quicken” (ZOOPOIESET) means:

1. To make alive	3. To give new life
2. To cause to live	4. To renew altogether

In other words

- The same Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead (in His resurrection)...
- Is the same Spirit that revives us to live a consecrated life.

How do we know this?

- Because Romans 8:11 is followed by Romans 8:12

“Therefore brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.” (Which means)

- Because of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead:

1. We are debtors to live for God.
2. We are debtors to deny the sins of flesh.
3. We are debtors to break with sin.

4. We are debtors to say “yes” to Jesus, and “no” to sin, satan and selfish living.

Jesus said:

“If you keep your life you’ll lose it, but if you give away your life you’ll save it.”
(Luke 9:24)

Illustration: Some years ago, a group of third graders were surveyed and asked **“Who are the most important people in the world today”?** (Their responses)

1. Michael Jackson
2. Brooke Shields
3. Boy George
4. Spider Man
5. “Me”

Illustration: There is a bird in South America called the “Me, Me” bird (the only sound it makes is “Me, Me, Me, Me”)

Illustration: Two bodies of water are fed by the same Jordan River; the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea.

- Galilee is full of fish, life and vegetation.
- The Dead Sea is full of salt and is fruitless and lifeless. **(How come?)**
- Because Galilee gives what it receives while the Dead Sea keeps all that it gets.

Illustration: When you go to the beach and squeeze sand in your hand, the tighter you squeeze, the smaller the handful of sand becomes.

Illustration: The closed hand is the sign of a stingy person.
The open hand is a sign of a giving person.

Illustration: Tighten your fist real tight and hold it; now let it loose, which one feels better?

- Imagine your spirit in the same way.
- The story is told of Jesus dying and going to heaven.
- A Seraphim asked Jesus, “What did you do before you returned to heaven?”
- Jesus responded, “I left all my work with 12 men and the church to follow.”
- “I gave them **My Name, My Power, My Ministry.**”
- The Seraphim replied, “What if they don’t do it?”
- Jesus replied, **“I have no other plans.”**

Jesus made five Sunday appearances on the day of His resurrection.

1. To Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18)
2. To other women (Matthew 28:9 &10)
3. To Peter (I Corinthians 15:5)
4. To the two Emmaus Road disciples (Luke 24:13-32)
5. To Jesus’ disciples – minus Thomas (John 20:19-25)

And Jesus wants to appear to you today. (Why?)

- To reveal that your salvation is paid for!
- To renew in you a lively hope!
- To remove all fear of dying!
- To remind you of your own bodily resurrection!
- To rescue you from final judgment!
- To revive you to live a consecrated life!

Altar Call
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