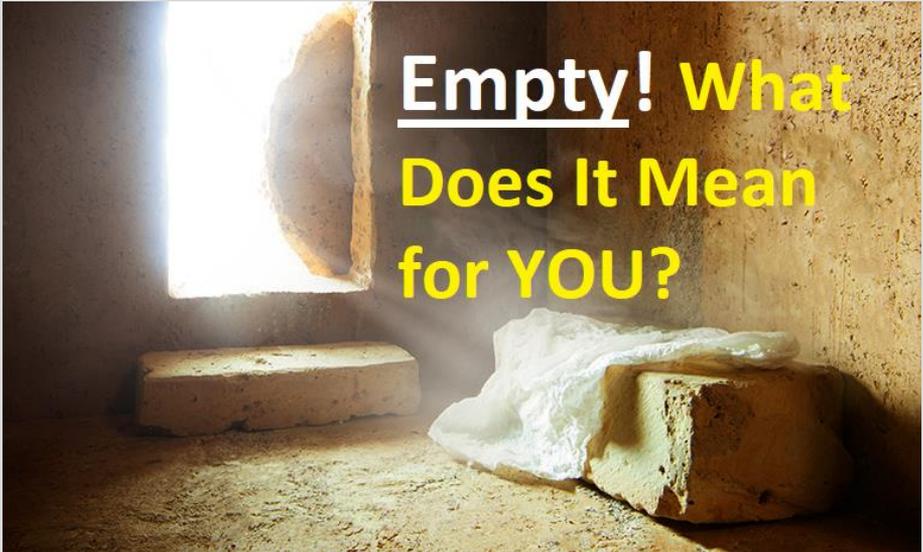


Text: Mark 16:1-8 (New American Standard, 1995 Version)

A photograph of an empty tomb. A large, rectangular stone has been rolled away from the entrance of a dark, earthen chamber. The stone is partially covered by a white, crumpled cloth. Bright light streams in from a window on the left, illuminating the interior of the tomb. The walls are made of rough, textured earth.

Empty! What Does It Mean for YOU?

Sunday, 4/4 at 9:00

The Resurrection of Our Lord – 2021

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: **He is risen!** (*He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*) Okay, so we said it, we heard it, and, *by God's grace*, we believe it! Those are especially important things, but what does it really mean for US that Jesus is no longer dead, but risen and reigning?

In this sermon we will go through the account of Easter Sunday according to Mark. Let us marvel at the events of that AMAZING day, *but let us also keep asking ourselves:* What does the empty tomb of Jesus mean to me?

1. **Holy Saturday:** ¹ **When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.**
 - a. Time: We follow **Roman time**, so a day is *from midnight to midnight*; **Jewish time**, which is common in the Bible, is *from sunset to sunset*.

- b. Third Day: That is when Jesus said He would be raised. Friday-day 1; Saturday-day 2; Sunday-day 3. Jesus was not in His tomb for 72 hours, *but for part of 3 days* – a short time Friday, all day Saturday, and part of Sunday.
- c. Sabbath: That was Saturday, *beginning at sunset on Friday and ending at sunset on Saturday*. When it ended, ♦the day of rest ended, ♦the markets were opened, and ♦the ladies bought spices for anointing Jesus' body. What were they thinking? **JESUS IS DEAD!** What about us? We are here, and we say *Jesus is alive*, **BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE IS JESUS MAKING IN OUR DAILY LIVES?**

2. **Easter Sunday Morning**: ² **Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.** // Thinking about Sunday: God began His work of creation on a Sunday; He created in six days – Su, Mo, Tu, We, Th, and Fr; *then on Sa, He rested* (*Gen. 1:1 – 2:3*). God created in six days to set the pattern for OUR week – *working on 6 and resting on 1* (see *Exo. 20:8-11*). He urges us to come and receive *His essential gifts each week!*
3. **The Tomb and Stone**: ³ **They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”** ⁴ **Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.** // Again, as they talked about the stone, *they were still thinking about Jesus dead body lying behind that stone*. They were faithful followers when Jesus was alive, *but now they believed He was dead*. **Therefore, they acted as if He was dead.** How are we acting – as if Jesus is **ALIVE** or **DEAD**? If we said, “Alive,” **what difference is He making in our lives?**

4. **Amazement:** ⁵ **Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.** // From Matthew's gospel account, we know the young man was an angel, "And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow" (Matt. 28:2-5 NAS).
- They expected a closed tomb, but it was open! They expected a dead Jesus, *but He was gone!* Then they saw the heaven-sent messenger *and were amazed!*
 - What about us, do we need to be amazed to believe? No! If we did; then, *when we stopped being amazed,* we would stop believing.
 - Is your faith grounded in God's unshakeable Word?
Here are some key passages:
 - ^{NAS} **Isaiah 40:8** "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."
 - ^{NAU} **Psalms 119:160** "The sum of Your word is truth..."
 - ^{NIV} **Proverbs 30:5** "Every word of God is flawless..."
Are you sure those words are true? Do you have unshakable confidence in the Bible?
5. **AWESOME NEWS:** ⁶ **And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him.** // Finally, the AWESOME NEWS: **HE HAS RISEN!**
- In today's world, many have flat out rejected Jesus. Others are thinking... 😊**maybe** He is the Son of God, 😊**maybe** He is the ONLY way to heaven, 😊**maybe** I should get serious about knowing Him! If that describes you, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? If you

are thinking that way when He comes; *then it will be too late, and you will be locked out of paradise* 😞!

- b. When people are wise investors, they don't put all of their eggs in one basket. However, when people are wise believers, **THEY PUT EVERYTHING ON JESUS!**
What about YOU... where are YOU with Jesus?

6. **Instructions:** ⁷ **“But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’”** // Jesus died and was entombed in the region of Judea, *but that was NOT the end*. He would see His disciples – *including Peter who denied Him* – up north, in the region of Galilee. Wow, an angel announcement, and soon, **actually seeing the risen Jesus!**
7. **Fear:** ⁸ **They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.** // Imagine those women – **what they expected** and **what they experienced**. ☹️ They were afraid, ☹️ their adrenaline surged, and ☹️ they fled from the tomb! They should have been *rejoicing and at peace*, yet they were not.

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – Bible—*it is all true*; Jesus—*He opened heaven!*
- **Relevance** – All have sinned, *so all need Jesus!*
- **Inspiration** – What we need the most is freely available, so let us get serious, repent, and stay serious about Jesus!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, TYSM for giving everything to save us; now, *move us to dedicate our lives to You!*

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