

Sunday: An EMPTY tomb: a FULL promise

John Brown
4-20-25 EASTER

Mark 15:42-47

Mark 16:1-20

If Christ be not risen, the dreadful consequence is not that death ends life, but that we are still in our sins. ~

G.A. Studdert Kennedy

The best news the world ever had came from a graveyard. ~ Anon

Death died when Christ rose. ~Anon

Jesus has forced open a door that had been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because he has done so.

~C.S. Lewis

Christianity is essentially a religion of resurrection. ~ James S. Stewart

The Gospels cannot explain the resurrection; it is the resurrection which alone explains the Gospels. ~John S Whale

The resurrection of Christ is the most important article of our faith. ~John Calvin

Our Lord is risen from the dead, Our Jesus is gone up on high. The powers of hell are captive led, dragged to the portals of the sky.

~Charles Wesley

The resurrection of Christ and the fact of the empty tomb are not part of the world's complex and continuing mythologies, this is not a Santa Claus tale-it is history and it is reality. ~ A.W. Tozer

Jesus Is Buried

⁴²When evening had already come, since it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,

⁴³Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself also waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Now Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. ⁴⁵And after learning this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb which had been cut out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were watching to see where He was laid. **Mark 15:42-47 NASB**

- Joseph of Arimathea (a town 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem) asks for the body of Jesus in order to bury him.
- He is a member of the Sanhedrin (71 scribes, elders and priests.)
- Pilate wanted assurance of Jesus' death and when he had the death confirmed, he released the body of Jesus to Joseph.
- Joseph wrapped His body in a linen cloth, placed Him in a tomb cut out in the rock and covered it with a large stone.

- Mary Magdalane and Jesus' mother Mary took note of all this.

The Resurrection

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might come and anoint Him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb for us?" ⁴And looking up, they *noticed that the stone had been rolled away; for it was extremely large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶But 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; see, here is the place where they laid Him. ⁷But go, tell His disciples and Peter, He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you. ⁸And 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.

⁹Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. ¹¹And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

¹²Now after that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. ¹³And they went away and reported it to the rest, but they did not believe them, either. **Mark 16:1-13 NASB**

- Early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalane, Mary (James' mother and Salome) take spices to anoint the body of Jesus.
- The large stone that covered the tomb had already been moved out of the way.
- Upon entering the tomb, they see an angel who explains to them that Jesus was alive and He would meet them in Galilee just as He had told them before the crucifixion.
- He (vs 9-11) had already encountered Mary Magdalane.

¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb, weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and yet she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her. **John 20:11-18 NASB**

- The disciples didn't believe Mary Magdalane. (Mark 16:10-11)
- The two on the road to Emmaus encountered the risen Jesus (Luke 24:31) and they ran to tell the others who were slow to believe them too.

The Disciples Commissioned

¹⁴ Later He appeared to the eleven disciples themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reprimanded them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen from the dead. ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ The one who has believed and has been baptized will be saved; but the one who has not believed will be condemned. ¹⁷ These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

¹⁹ So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed. **Mark 16:14-20 NASB**

- Jesus appears to the eleven and confronts them for their unbelief....but I told you in advance!!
- Jesus commissions the disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation (v15).
- Heaven and hell are real (v16)
- These signs (attesting miracles) will accompany those who have believed. IN MY NAME THEY WILL:
 - Cast out demons.
 - Speak with new tongues (new in the sense of fresh, recent, unused)
 - Snakes won't harm and poison will not hurt them.
 - To lay hands on the sick and they will recover. They will go from ill to well. The process of healing and making well. (v17-18)
 - Jesus ascends to Heaven.
 - The disciples went out to preach everywhere and the Lord provided the signs and wonders that followed them.

NOTE: v16-SALVATION IS NOT FROM BEING BAPTIZED.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but

so that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

²⁸ Therefore they said to Him, "What are we to do, so that we may accomplish the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

¹¹ He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.

WE ARE SAVED BY BELIEVING IN JESUS