

# The Empty Tomb

Matthew 28:1-8

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## INTRODUCTION:

A. Each holiday has a message.

1. The message of July 4th in the United States is the nation's independence from England.
2. The message of Memorial Day is the death of patriotic men and women who died from their country.
3. The message of Mother's Day is "mom".
4. The message of Father's is "dad".
5. The message of Christmas is the birth of Christ. Many aptly say "Jesus is the reason for the season."
6. The message of “Good Friday” is the death of Christ for our sins. 2

Corinthians 5:21

7. The message of “Easter” is the resurrection of Christ from the tomb.

Matthew 28:1-8

B. **April 9, A.D. 30**, some \_\_\_\_\_ **years** and \_\_\_\_\_ **days ago**, the grave could hold Him no longer.

C. All four accounts of the one gospel record the story of the resurrection:

1. Matthew 28:1-8
2. Mark 16:1-8
3. Luke 24:1-12
4. John 20:1-9

D. Our Lesson Text: **Matthew 28:1-8** - Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

## E. The Word of God speaks further:

1. **2 Timothy 2:8** - Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel.
2. **1 Peter 1:20-21** - He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you  
Who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
3. **Acts 13:30** - But God raised Him from the dead.
4. **Romans 6:4-5** - Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.  
For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.
5. **Romans 6:5** - For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection ,
6. **Romans 6:9** - Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.
7. **2 Corinthians 4:14** - Knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.
8. **1 Peter 1:3** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
9. **Romans 1:4** - And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.
10. **Philippians 3:10** - That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection.

## F. Jesus died . . . And lived to tell about it!

G. During what the world calls “Easter” attention is focused on the resurrection of our Lord.

## H. Great marvels that resurrection day:

1. Man killed Christ . . . But God raised Him.
2. Man buried Christ . . . But God resurrected Him.
3. Man closed the tomb . . . God opened it. A rounded rock cannot hold the Rock of all Ages
4. Man sent soldiers to guard it . . . God sent two angels to reveal it.
5. Man wanted others to see a sealed tomb . . . God wanted others to see an empty tomb.
6. Death cannot hold what it cannot control . . . And it could not hold our Lord.
7. Now, death does not have power over that which has power over it.
8. The kings of this world cannot conquer the King of the spiritual world.

**IN MATTHEW 28:5-7, THE ANGEL WHO ANNOUNCED THE GOOD NEWS OF THE RESURRECTION TO THE WOMEN GAVE THEM FOUR MESSAGES:**

**A. “Do not be afraid.”**

1. The reality of the resurrection:
  - a. Brings joy . . . Not Fear
  - b. Brings victory . . . Not defeat
  - c. Brings hope . . . Not gloom
  - d. Brings reality . . . Not superstition
2. When you are afraid, remember the empty tomb.

**B. “He is not here.”**

1. Jesus is not dead and is not to be looked for among the dead.
  - a. He is alive and with His people.
  - b. He is alive and with His Father.
  - c. He is alive and in His Word.
  - d. He is alive and in His Church.
  - e. He is alive in the heart of every true child of God.

**C. “Come and see.”**

1. The women could check the evidence themselves . . . And so can we.
2. The tomb was empty then . . . And the tomb is empty today.
3. The resurrection is a historical fact . . . and the cornerstone of our faith.
4. “Come and See”
  - a. God has nothing to hide.
  - b. The Bible has nothing to hide.
  - c. The tomb has nothing to hide.
  - d. The Lord’s invitation has nothing to hide.

**D. “Go quickly and tell.”**

1. The empty tomb is not to be concealed . . . But revealed to all the world.
2. They were to spread the joy of the resurrection.
3. We too are to spread the great news about Jesus' resurrection.
4. Our good news is not to be kept to ourselves, but rather, it is to be made available to all the world.
5. We have been taught that we might teach others.
6. We have been saved that we the we might save others.

**JESUS' RESURRECTION IS THE KEY TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. WHY?**

1. Just as he promised, Jesus rose from the dead. We can be confident, therefore, that he will accomplish all he has promised.
2. Jesus' bodily resurrection shows us that the living Christ is ruler of God's eternal kingdom, not a false prophet or imposter.
3. We can be certain of our resurrection because he was resurrected. Death is not the end — there is future life.
4. The power that brought Jesus back to life is available to us to bring our spiritually dead selves back to life.

5. The resurrection is the basis for the church's message to the world. Jesus was more than just a human leader; He was and is the Son of God.

### CONCLUSION:

- A. The sufferings of Christ preceded His death, burial, and resurrection.
1. He suffered being tempted . . . From Satan.  
**Hebrews 2:18** - For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.
  2. He suffered for righteousness . . . From men. **1 Peter 2:23** - Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;
  3. He suffered for sins . . . At the hand of God. **1 Peter 3:18** – “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,
  4. He suffered for us. **1 Peter 1:21** - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps. Where will His steps lead?
    - a. Through the Waters of Baptism.
    - b. Through the Wilderness of Temptation.
    - c. To the House of Worship.
    - d. Through the Fields of Service.
    - e. Upon the Mountain of Prayer.
    - f. Through the Garden of Despair.
    - g. To the Cross of Suffering.
    - h. Through the Valley of Death.
    - i. To the throne of God.
- B. The tomb was empty . . . It still is.
1. The tomb is empty because we serve a living Lord.
  2. The tomb is empty because we serve a loving God.
  3. The tomb is empty because we serve a merciful God.
  4. The tomb is empty because sin has been defeated.
  5. The tomb is empty because Satan has been defeated.
  6. The tomb is empty because God's power is so great.
  7. The tomb is empty because Heaven is real and God wants you to enter it.
  8. The tomb is empty because Hell is real and God wants you to escape it.
  9. The tomb is empty because someday your tombs can be empty as well.
  10. The tomb is empty because hopeless has now turned to hope.
  11. The tomb is empty because salvation is available.
  12. The tomb is empty because God wants you to obey Him.
- C. Four observers of the empty tomb:
1. The guards were scared – Matthew 28:14

2. The women heard – Matthew 28:5-8, 9-10
3. Mary misunderstood – John 20:1-2, 11-18
4. Peter wondered – John 20:3-7, 9
5. John believed – John 20:8

D. Four Imperatives

1. **“Come”** – Come and receive all the good things God has for you.
2. **“See”** – See all the evidence God’s Word has provided for us
3. **“Go”** – Go where any and all the lost can be found.
4. **“Tell”** – Tell them the good news that God wants them to know.

E. The tomb is empty so you can empty your life of sin . . . . . Will you do it?

**God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**