

An Empty Tomb For Empty Lives

The stone was rolled away:

An empty tomb shows that:

- Jesus **WAS** who He **CLAIMED** to be.
- God's death paid our **RANSOM** & **REDEEMED** us.
- The question of an **AFTERLIFE** is answered.
- We have a **LIVING** God, not a **DEAD** one.

An empty tomb brings an invitation of:

- **GRACE**
- **PURPOSE**
- **RELATIONSHIP**
- **PROMISES**

Food for Thought for the week of January 5, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

(NIV – New International Version)

1. Christ's resurrection is foundational to the Christian faith because it is the proof that Christ is who He claimed to be – the Messiah. It also affects our faith in other ways. What importance do the following passages place on Christ's death and resurrection for us in our Christian walk?

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 - But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Romans 5:6-8 - You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:5-7 - For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

What do you find most meaningful about what Christ did for us?

2. Understanding who Jesus is and what He has done for us is the essential message of the resurrection. The following passages contain statements Jesus made about Himself. For each one, identify what He says about Himself and think of how these descriptions can impact our lives as believers.

Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

John 6:35 - Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 8:12 - When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 10:14-15 - "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father— and I lay down my life for the sheep."

John 14:6 - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Which of the descriptions of Jesus catches your attention the most?

3. The best demonstration to the world of a resurrected Jesus is when His followers put their faith in action. At North Coast, we often call this being the "hands and feet of Jesus." How do the following verses describe what this looks like and reinforce this idea?

Matthew 5:13-16 - "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

1 Peter 2:15-17 - For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.