

An illustration of an empty tomb. The interior is dark and rocky. A white cloth lies on the floor in the foreground. In the background, a bright light shines from an opening in the rock, with a set of stone steps leading up to it. The overall scene is dramatic and symbolic of the resurrection.

HE IS RISEN!
Now That, Is GREAT News!

The Resurrection Is THE Turning Point

- The Resurrection is what sets Christianity apart from all other religions
- Without the resurrection, Jesus would have been just like us, dead and buried in the ground. 1Cor.15:13-19
- Attempting to refute the resurrection has been the undoing of a number of well known atheists turned Christian Scholars
 - CS Lewis, (The Most Reluctant Convert)
 - Josh McDowell (Evidence that Demands a Verdict)
- Matthew 28:1-10 gives a great overview

How Did It Happen?

- It happened on Sunday Morning
- Coming upon the scene of the tomb they were terrified.
 - The entrance stone was up and away from the opening of the tomb
 - On the ground, looking dead, lay a troop of Roman soldiers sent to guard the tomb
- The Angel told them the good news
- The women left, afraid, but joyful
- They left to tell the disciples

Meanwhile, Back At The Tomb

- The guards were waking up, and seeing the empty tomb were fearful for their lives
- A delegation of guards were sent to the chief priest to tell him what had happened
- The guards were paid off with a large sum of money to say they had been negligent in their duties

Meanwhile, Back In Town

- **The women are having some trouble relating their story. John 20**
- **The disciples are horrified to hear Jesus body has been moved.**
- **Peter and John start a footrace for the tomb.**
- **On the way out they pass a very concerned looking group soldiers on their way into town**

Confusion and A Miracle

- John, the younger of the two, won the footrace but lacked in courage. He paused at the door and looked in
- Bold Peter went straight in then John
- The clothes that had been around the body were lying there like an empty shell, and the face cloth was folded lying to one side
- The light dawned and John believed a miracle had happened here

Appearances and Mission

- **Over the next hours, days and weeks over 500 people would eventually meet, talk and worship Jesus**
- **The angels and Jesus told them to meet Him in Galilee**
- **There, He gave them the Everyday Commission**

Appearances and Mission

➤ There, He gave them the everyday Commission

1. Make Disciples – Followers

2. Baptize them – Set them apart

3. Teach them to obey – Lifestyle matters

➤ I am with you

➤ My presence, my authority and my power go with you

Observations

- 1. 3 groups of people admitted the tomb was empty that morning.**
 - Those who were followers of Jesus
 - Those who were against Jesus
 - Those who paid to keep Him in there and failed to do so.
- 2. God did not send the Angel to open the tomb to let Jesus out, but to let the people in to see He was gone!**

Observations

- 3.** God has an eternal purpose for your life. The everyday commission is for everyone, everyday.
- 4.** God has not abandoned you. He promises to be with you.
- 5.** The Cross is the ultimate statement of God's desire to redeem His earthly family from their bondage in sin to eternal life with Him.
- 6.** The empty tomb is the sign of Christ's victory over death.
- 7.** Eternal life is only found only in Christ. Not you.