

The Empty Tomb

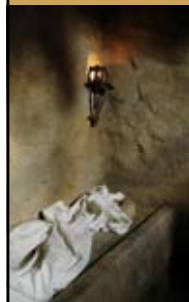
John 20



Introduction:



“The resurrection is God’s amen to Christ’s statement, ‘It is finished.’”
S. Lewis Johnson



He “*was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*”
Romans 1:4



How do we know it is true?

I. Christianity invites us to examine the evidence. John 20:1-9

Christianity is rooted in history.



Very early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb with two other women.

- They came to anoint Jesus’ body with spices.
- They were not expecting a resurrection.



Peter and John ran to the tomb.

- Peter was puzzled. Why were the grave clothes still there?
- The Greek word keimena means “carefully placed in order.”
- It was like the body had simply vanished



John saw and believed.

There are three Greek words for sight used in this passage.

- Blepo (vs 1) – Mary saw – “ordinary sight”.
- Theoreo (vs 6) – Peter saw – “to see and think”.
- Orao (vs 8) – John saw – “to see with understanding”.



Don't you see Peter?
He's alive!



II. Evidence leads to faith. John 20:10-18

That was true for

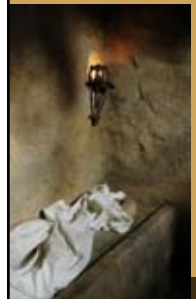
- Lew Wallace – author of Ben Hur
- Frank Morison – author of Who Moved the Stone?
- Lee Strobel – author of The Case for Christ and The Case for Faith



Mary stood at the tomb weeping.
It wasn't until Jesus called her by
name, that she recognized him.



*“Go to my brothers and
tell them, ‘I am returning
to my Father and your
Father, to my God and
your God.’”* Verse 17



III. Faith leads to responsibility.
John 20:19-23

For Mary, faith brought the privilege and responsibility to tell the disciples what she had seen and heard.

For the disciples, faith would mean carrying on Jesus' mission.



Christianity is not a private faith.
It is meant to be shared.

- "Go and make disciples of all nations." Matthew 28:18
- "You shall be my witnesses." Acts 1:8
- "We are ambassadors for Christ." II Corinthians 5:20
- "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." John 20:21



Power and authority were being given to the disciples.

- "Receive the Holy Spirit."
- "If you forgive..."



Faith leads to responsibility.



IV. Jesus commands us to
"Stop Doubting and Believe."
John 20:24-29

Thomas was a skeptic.
In spite of all the disciple's assurances, he would not believe until he had seen Jesus himself.



Jesus knows our thoughts and our conversations.
Jesus wants us to believe.
"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."





We believe on the basis of the Scriptures, the witness of the Apostles and the work of the Holy Spirit today.

Conclusion:



These things have been written *“that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”* John 20:31



Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Is he your Savior too?

Jesus
is
Risen!

