What We Can Take From an Empty Tomb

Luke 24:1-12

4/20/25

This past Friday night we came together to pause and remember the darkest day in history of the Universe. That was the day that mankind took it upon themselves to kill God. The day we lost everything!

The Gospels tell us that when they had finished beating Jesus, they took him out to be crucified. Bruised and bloody they made him carry his cross through the streets of Jerusalem. When they came to Golgotha, the Place of the Skull, they nailed him to a cross and hung him to die. Suspended between heaven and earth, hung between two thieves, he took upon himself the sins of the world. For the 1st time in history, God turned his back on His Son.

* 1 Peter 2:24

*“He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross. . .”*

The sins of Shawn & the sins of each one of you, he carried. Our sins marked his soul...sins of omission and sins of commission, mortal sins, and corrupt sins. Not only did He bore our sins, but he carried the consequences of our sins... that of Hell & Death.

The world had done its very worst to Jesus, but now they could do no more to him. As the physical darkness gave way, a spiritual darkness covered the earth. Mankind had turned its back on God, mankind had rejected him, and mankind had sought to rid itself of the Son of God forever putting us in a position of loss and defeat forever.

Friday, into Saturday Satan had won, the high priests celebrated their victory, Pilate quickly forgot the events of the day and the followers of Jesus hid in fear & defeat.

If you were looking at this story from a practical way, it would appear that Jesus’ ministry had been a waste of time and energy. It was apparent that his message, the message of love, the message of hope and the message of grace had died with him. And if we closed the book right there that is exactly what it be. DEAD, LOST, and DEFEATED...

But we’re here this morning, because lucky for us, the story was not finished on Good Friday. As we concluded Friday evening there was a “TO BE CONTINUED...”. You see there’s a part 2 to this story...The man that they put in the Tomb on Friday didn’t stay in the grave! And the darkness and defeat that had consumed the world wasn’t around very long! In case if you aren’t aware yet, the reason we’re here today is to celebrate The Day We Won Forever!”

You see, because of this pivotal moment in the story it signifies victory over death and sin. The message of Easter is one of hope, renewal, and eternal life.

Luke 24:1-12

*But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices, they had prepared. 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 3 So they went in, but they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. 5 The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? 6 He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.” 8 Then they remembered that he had said this. 9 So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. 11 But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn’t believe it. 12 However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.*

You ever been bamboozled, tricked, or the brunt of a prank? This must have been what Peter have felt like...Talk about emotional for the past few days...But this was no hoax, this was no prank as they soon would find out! The tomb where Jesus was laid was empty! The stone was rolled away and He had risen from the dead, conquering death and proving that He was indeed the Messiah. This miraculous event is the cornerstone of Christian faith. It signifies that through Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection, we are offered salvation and eternal life.

As if that isn’t enough, what else does an empty tomb mean for us over 2000 years from that day? It means that through Jesus’ resurrection we win...forever! The victory we celebrate today is not a temporary or earthly triumph. It is a victory that transcends time and space, offering us eternal peace, security, joy and VICTORY!

You see, God has always had victory over evil. As soon as Satan appeared in the form of a snake and tempted Adam and Eve to sin, God handed down His punishment to Satan in Genesis

* Genesis 3:14-15

“*Then the LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live. And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel’” (NLT).*

This wasn’t just a metaphor about Satan’s conflict with humans and his eventual humiliation; it was a statement of God’s ultimate victory. Evil might be able to wound people for a time, but from the beginning God knew that Jesus would defeat death and Satan. Although the devil intended for sin and brokenness to destroy us, because of the empty tomb, his designs are powerless, and he has been defeated forever! Death & Defeat no longer have the final word!

So, what can we take from an Empty Tomb?

**Strength to Overcome our Doubts and Challenges**

Imagine the disappointment of the disciples when Jesus was crucified. They experienced the heartbreak of losing a friend and teacher. Surely doubt also crept into their hearts. The disciples had witnessed Jesus perform many miracles, but when it came to saving Himself, Jesus had failed. At least through their eyes and expectations.

How often have we not recognized God’s hand moving in our lives because we expected God to give us a different outcome? Matthew tells us that even after Christ’s resurrection, some of the disciples still struggled with doubts even after seeing the risen Jesus!

How often do our problems seem too big for us to handle? Bills are piling up, relationships are fractured, health complications, etc. These things are so heavy, they overwhelm our ability to accomplish even the smallest tasks. Yet, because of the empty tomb and because He is risen, we can trust the One who is alive today, Jesus, to give us His strength to persevere and overcome our problems, our doubts, our impossibilities! The same power that raised Him from the dead, which is impossible in our eyes, is available to us. We have access to a source of supernatural strength that can help us overcome any obstacle that may arise in our life!

Truth is, despite the pain and grief, God used the cross to bring His redemption to humankind. With how this whole event ended, we can ask God to help us see our circumstances in a new light, the light of the empty tomb. Where there was confusion, heartbreak, and doubt, God proved that even in life’s most extensive trials and injustices, He can use everything for His good.

Even as Christ approached the hour of His arrest and crucifixion, He begged His Father for another way. He knew the pain that awaited, but even with that knowledge, He willingly submitted to God’s will, even to the point of death. (Matthew 28:39)

His surrender ultimately led to victory over death. True strength and victory come from surrendering to God’s will even in the difficult moments and unbearable things in life.

**Power to Overcome Our Fears**

Through the empty tomb, Jesus can help us overcome our fear. Our fears in this life and our fear over death. As humans, we’re naturally afraid of death, as it represents the unknown and the end of our physical existence. However, as Christians, we believe death is not the end but rather a transition to eternal life with God.

Christ’s resurrection from death was more than another miracle showcasing the infinite power of God’s glory. Instead, it was a sacrificial death to atone for humanity’s sins and a testament to the power of God’s love and grace, which is available to all who believe and follow Jesus.

As Christians, we’re called to submit our lives, out of our faith and trust, into God’s hands. The empty tomb highlights the importance of living a life of purpose and meaning. As Christians, our ultimate destiny is with God, and our actions in this life have eternal consequences. God’s grace has a transformative power, regardless of our past mistakes and shortcomings.

**Trust for God’s Promises**

Because of God’s great love and faithfulness, we can trust His Promises. However, holding onto that kind of faith can sometimes seem impossible in the face of injustice and heartbreak. The empty tomb is the reminder of God’s faithfulness, even when it doesn’t come when or how we expect it.

God’s track record for keeping His promises is flawless. In the Old Testament, God made numerous promises to His people, such as the promise of a Messiah who would save them from their sins. Despite centuries of waiting and doubt, God fulfilled this promise through a baby boy in a manger. When God makes a promise, even when it seems impossible to fulfill, He will always be faithful to it...even if it doesn’t happen how we expect it.

The empty tomb is the physical manifestation of God’s faithfulness. Jesus promised that He would rise from the dead, and early that Sunday morning, Jesus proved once and for all that death could not hold Him down. By rising from the dead, He confirmed the validity of all His teachings and sacrifice on the cross.

To trust God’s promises requires Godly patience. While we’d all like a Magic 8 Ball to answer our questions and overnight shipping to supply the needs of our hearts, God doesn’t often work that way. Instead, we operate in God’s timing, which sees beyond our circumstances to a greater perspective beyond our human understanding.

Trusting in God’s promises may also require letting go of our plans and desires. We may have ideas about how God’s promises should be fulfilled, but we must surrender those ideas to God’s will. When we do this, we may feel like God has abandoned us while we wait. But often, between our prayer and God’s answer is the opportunity for us to deepen and develop our faith.

Ultimately, because of the empty tomb, we can trust in God’s character. If we believe that God is faithful to His word, we must understand His character and love for us, which can only come through a personal relationship with Him.

Indispensable Joy

As Christians, the empty tomb represents the pinnacle of our faith. It is a powerful reminder of Jesus’s incredible sacrifice on the cross and the triumph of His resurrection over death. Through this, we can learn valuable lessons about the importance of gratitude and joy in our daily lives. We can cultivate thankfulness and joy in light of the empty tomb.

* Celebrate

The empty tomb allows us to celebrate Jesus’ victory. By embracing this celebration and incorporating it into our lives, we can experience the joy and hope of the resurrection all year long.

* Share the Good News

The empty tomb is a call to evangelism. We are called to share the Good News of the Gospel with others. By sharing the joy and hope of our faith with those around us, we can help others to experience the life-changing power of Jesus’ resurrection.

* Embrace Forgiveness

Through Jesus’ sacrifice, we have been forgiven our sins and set free from guilt and shame. By embracing forgiveness and extending it to others, we can experience the joy and freedom of a life without condemnation.

* Seek God’s Presence

When we draw near to God and spend time in His presence, we can experience a deep sense of joy and peace. By prioritizing prayer and worship in our lives, we can cultivate a deeper relationship with God and experience the joy that comes from knowing Him.

* Find Joy in the Journey

Life is full of ups and downs, but when we embrace the journey and trust God’s plan, we can find joy amid even the most difficult circumstances. By learning to find contentment in all circumstances, we can experience the joy that comes from knowing God is with us every step.

* Remember the Hope

The empty tomb is a powerful reminder that our hope is not in this world but in the promise of eternal life with God. By keeping our eyes fixed on this hope and living with an eternal perspective, we can experience the joy and peace that comes from knowing we are secure in Christ.

Closing:

At the end of the day, even here in 2025, the Empty Tomb represents hope for those who believe. The empty tomb is a powerful symbol of hope, life, and victory! Jesus Christ’s resurrection proves that death is not the story’s end but the beginning...The beginning of a new life, the beginning of hope and victory in our daily problems, the beginning of a future that is free from suffering and pain in eternity with Him!

The empty tomb gives us the courage to face the day & face the world, knowing that Jesus has, by walking out of that tomb, already won the victory for everything we face today, and will face tomorrow!

The empty tomb was not just a historical moment; it is available today. We can experience the glory of the resurrection and its transformative power in our lives even this morning. **It gives you and me the confidence to face any challenge knowing that we have access to the power of God, and with that, we are VICTORIOUS!**

Be filled with hope! The tomb is empty! Christ is alive!