

Easter: The Empty Tomb

*“Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph. He was a member of the Jewish high council, but he had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders. He was from the town of Arimathea in Judea, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come. He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. Then he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a **new tomb** that had been carved out of rock. This was done late on Friday afternoon, the day of preparation, as the Sabbath was about to begin. As his body was taken away, the women from Galilee followed and saw the tomb where his body was placed. Then they went home and prepared spices and ointments to anoint his body. But by the time they were finished the Sabbath had begun, so they rested as required by the law. But very early on Sunday morning **the women went to the tomb**, taking the spices they had prepared.”*

Luke 23:50-56, 24:1 NLT

*“The women went to the tomb... They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So **they went in**, but they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. 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?”** He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 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.” **Then they remembered** that he had said this.”*

Luke 24:1-8 NLT

*“So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. **But the story sounded like nonsense** to the men, so they didn’t believe it.” Luke 24:9-11 NLT*

*“**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.” Luke 24:12 NLT*

When we encounter the **cross of Jesus** we can **leave our past** behind.

When we embrace the **resurrection of Jesus** we **gain our future**.

*“For the **joy** set before him Jesus **endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2 NIV*

1. Prayerfully confess Jesus is Lord of your life.

*"If you **confess** with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord**... For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." Romans 10:9-10 ESV*

2. Believe in the resurrection.

*"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that **God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." Romans 10:9-10 ESV*

*"If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins."
1 Corinthians 15:17 NLT*

3. Live like Jesus.

*"For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will **not be put to shame**." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, **bestowing his riches** on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be **saved**.""
Romans 10:1-13 ESV*