

An Empty Tomb

John 20:1-10

Last Sunday: The burial of Jesus; his full humiliation

Today: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ—without the resurrection there is no good news.

- Rom. 4:25, He “was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”
- 1 Cor. 15:17-19, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

20:1/ “Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark...”

Why do these women bring spices when Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea already have?

1. Nicodemus and Joseph are members of the Sanhedrin, who had condemned Christ.
2. Nicodemus and Joseph ran out of time before the 6:00 pm deadline of the Sabbath.
3. This is the women’s last act of love to their Savior.

20:1/ “Saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb” Other accounts:

- Mt. 28:1-4, “Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.”
- Mk. 16:5-7, “Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”
- Lk. 24:4-7, “While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.’”

20:6/ “He saw the linen cloths lying there.” Two options of what exactly John and Peter saw:

1. Description: an orderly scene—robbers would not have left the grave clothes lying neatly; they would have taken the body with the linen clothes or scattered the linen clothes.
2. Description: the linens were lying the same way as when originally placed around the body. Jesus’ body rose through the grave clothes without disturbing them.