An Empty Tomb

Topical

Objective: Help each realize the significant of Christ’s resurrection.

Reading: Luke 24:1-12

Memory: Luke 24:7, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”

Introduction:

1. Imagine the scene of Sunday morning. After Friday’s horror. We saw the result of the scourging. Saw Him carry the cross up the hill. Saw them drive the nails in and hoist the cross up.

2. They came by and broke the legs of the others, so they could no longer push up to breathe, but Jesus was already dead. To make sure, the soldier thrust a spear up into Him and we saw the blood and water come out. He was dead. No doubt about that.

3. We were glad when Joseph of Arimathea took Him and buried Him. Some of our women saw this and where He was laid, but as if the torture, the crucifixion and the stabbing was not sufficient, the Jewish leaders had Pilot place a Roman guard in front of the tomb to protect it.

4. When the disciples found an empty tomb, they went away wondering.

5. Are you wondering? Folks we ought not wonder. It has been explained to us and …

We ought to rejoice in the concept of an empty tomb. (WHY?)

This event was predicted, prophesied, and explained, before and after it happened. It happened just like God said it would. It is vitally important and significant to every human that has ever lived or ever will. We ought to know the significance of the empty tomb.

The first and most obvious, the empty tomb means that;

I. He Lives!

A. He is alive today.

1. Though He suffered and died for our sins, He lives.

2. But death could not hold on to Him. Acts 2:24, “But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”

3. Though mankind, professional executioners put him to death and verified His death, though He was buried, death could not hold Him. He lives and He reigns!

B. He is life itself.

1. What He told Martha in John 11:25-26 at the death of Lazarus is true; “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

2. What He said in John 14:6 is true; “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

3. He is God’s chosen One, the Messiah, the Christ, and is seated at the right hand of Almighty God; Cf. Luke 22:66-70, “At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. 67 “If you are the Christ,” they said, “tell us.” Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, 68 and if I asked you, you would not answer. 69 But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.” 70 They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?” He replied, “You are right in saying I am.”

4. He is NOT just a good man. He is NOT just an angel. He is the Son of God, the Word of Life. He is the very source of life. Colossians 1:15-16, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created”

5. I need to seek life “in Him”. I need to entrust myself, my very soul, my life to Him.

The empty tomb means that He lives. The fact that He lives, means that

II. He is Lord.

A. He is in charge today.

1. Just as Isaiah predicted 730 years earlier, Isaiah 9:6, “And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his
kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.”

2. He is NOT dead and removed. He lives and interacts. He interacts with me and with the world. He is my King. He protects and guides and governs.

3. Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Whatever it brings!

4. He is the Son of God on God Himself. Proven to be the Son of God! Romans 1:4, “…who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.”

5. Such a demonstration of power shows that our Lord …

B. Jesus has all supremacy.

1. Jesus has power and authority over all things! This is the essence of Good News to be proclaimed: Matthew 28:18-20: “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

2. The resurrection means that Jesus IS life itself! - The source, the Creator. The Sustainer.

3. It means that Jesus can handle anything that comes along
   a. In my life. In the workings of our nation.
   b. Satan is defeated. Spiritual warfare still goes on, but Satan is defeated. Victory has been achieved for eternity.
   c. We know who wins in the end because it has already been decided.
   d. Now we simply need to choose sides and be on the right side! God’s side.

The tomb is empty. He lives! Because He lives, I can be resurrected also. He lives, so…

III. We can “choose” life.

A. His goal is that we might live.

1. That is why He came in the first place. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

2. He wants me/us to be with Him. Father, Son and Holy Spirit want me with them (you too).

3. Romans 8:29 indicates He did all this so, “…that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” He wants us to be transformed into children of God. To be adopted!

4. He was raised for our justification. Romans 4:25, “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

5. He came to sacrifice for my sins, to rescue me. The whole Christ event is one event – His birth, His walk, His teaching, His death, burial and His resurrection.

B. He is my life.

1. He is life itself and offers me the choice – I can ignore Him and remain in death, or I can choose to follow Him and live in Him for life.

2. Without Him, I have no life. I live if it is Him living in me.

3. In Christ, I have died to self, and I am a new creature. 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

4. Living with His goals and motives and glory! It is Christ living in me! And it is a glorious life.

C. A life with no fear of death.

1. For those who trust Him. For those are are genuinely His children. We have died the “first death” when we died to self. We have no fear of the second death, “physical death” – that is simply full entrance into His kingdom.

2. Hebrews 2:14-15, “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

3. We no longer are dictated to and controlled by our fears – because life doesn’t end at the grave! I don’t have to be dictated to by threat of what might happen to me.

The empty tomb means that you and I can live in joyful expectation.
IV. We can live in “hope”.

A. Hope for new life.
   1. 1 Peter 1:3, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”
   2. That is “resurrection” “Anastasia” Standing again. I can have a make-over. I can be a “changed” person. A start –over.
   3. With Christ living in me, I am a child of God. Look like it, feel like it, act like it!

B. Hope for fellowship with God.
   1. 1 Corinthians 15:17, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” But He IS raised, the tomb was found empty! So through Him you can find forgiveness of sins which enables God to live in you.
   2. You can now have forgiveness of sins, transformation, reconciliation. You can live with a new and better covenant based on new and better promises – IN CHRIST!

C. Hope for His participation in our lives.
   1. Today. He is alive and active and working today! Help in overcoming temptations.
   2. Hebrews 6:19, “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” Because He lives, we can live secure with a focus, knowing, as heirs to what was promised, that God's nature is unchanging, and He keeps His oath and is working out His sure promise, in us who live in Christ.
   3. 1 Peter 1:13, “Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

So What?
   Folks, the tomb was found empty. There were witnesses. Even the soldiers guarding it could not explain it – they had to be bought off. The disciples witnessed that the tomb was empty. I know that they didn’t make it up. They didn’t expect it to be empty. Witnessing to the fact that it was empty led many of them to arrest, persecution, suffering and physical death. The only reason for saying it was empty is that it was.

   What does it mean? It means He lives. It means He is Lord. It means I can live. It means I can live, looking forward to whatever may come if I am in Him.

   The resurrection of Christ Jesus is the single most significant thing in the history of mankind. Don’t miss the significance of what it means and how it can/should affect your own life. Aspire to comprehend all that the empty tomb means for your life.

   Paul did. His response was, Philippians 3:10-11, “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Closing Prayer:
An Empty Tomb
Topical


“T_ S_ o_ M_ m_ b_ d_i_t_h_o_s_m_,
B_c_a_o_t_t_d_b_r_a.”

We ought to know the significance of the empty tomb.

I. He Lives!
A. He is alive today. Acts 2:24

B. He is life itself.

II. He is Lord.
A. He is in charge today.

B. Jesus has all supremacy.

III. We can “choose” life.
A. His goal is that we might live.

B. He is my life.

C. A life with no fear of death.

IV. We can live in “hope”.
A. Hope for new life.

B. Hope for fellowship with God.

C. Hope for His participation in our lives.

So What?
Aspire to comprehend all that the empty tomb means for your life. (Philippians 3:10-11)