

# “The Empty Tomb”

Easter Sunday 04-11-09

Read: **Isaiah 53**

Set the stage for early that Sunday morning.

**Have you ever said or done something that you regretted so much that it kept coming back to you over and over in your mind again and again?**

**Peter**

**Matthew 14:22-33**

“Who do you say that I am?”

**Matthew 16:16-23**

**Mark 14:26-31**

**John 18:10**

**Luke 22:54**

**Luke 22:55-62**

**Malchus**

**Luke 22:49-51**

**The disciples**

**Matthew 26:56**

(Peter at least followed at a distance)

**Have you ever seen something that was horrible, and the image played over and over in your mind, and you just couldn't seem to get rid of it?**

**John 19:30**

**Luke 23:46**

*And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last.*

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(Jesus was quoting from Psalm 31:5)

Can you imagine how many times they must have visualized that image in their minds?

*“It is finished! Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”* – And He died!

We talked last week about some of the miracles He did while He was with them.

List some of them again.

-Also, He claimed to be the Son of God... How could the Son of God die?

**What do you think was going on in their minds as they thought about what He had done... and then the image of Him dying would replay in their minds again?**

**How would you say Peter and the disciples felt that Saturday?**

Hopeless?

For us to get the impact of the Resurrection, we must get a glimpse of how the disciples felt that Saturday...

But...

Then came Sunday morning!

**Matthew 28:1-7**

**Comments?**

**John 20:1-10**

**John 20:19**

The stone was not rolled away so Jesus could come out, He didn't need the stone rolled away!

There is no stone big enough to hold Him!

The stone was rolled away, so His disciples could look in and see that in fact He was not there, He had risen from the dead!

The stone was rolled away, so we can look in and see that He is not there!

He has power over EVERYTHING, including death!

**As you think about His power, how does that bring encouragement to you?**

Incidentally, when Jesus said: *It is Finished!*" He was not giving up; He had just perfectly finished everything the Father had sent Him to do!

And the Bible doesn't say this, but I think at that moment when He said; "It is finished!", God the Father looked down, and said; "**Well done! My beloved Son, I am so pleased with you!**"

I say to you: **Behold The Lamb of God!**

**Comments?**

Closing Prayer

If time allows:

Read: **John 21:15-19**