

What if the Tomb Wasn't Empty?

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – March 31, 2024 (Easter)

[1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 10a, 12-20](#)

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9... 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect... 11... 12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Because the tomb really was empty...

1. JESUS IS WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE

[John 10:30](#)

"I and the Father are one."

[John 14:9](#)

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."

[Mark 14:61-62](#)

61 Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62 "I am," said Jesus...

[2 Peter 1:16](#)

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2. JESUS HAS THE POWER HE CLAIMED TO HAVE

[John 10:18](#)

"No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down and power to take it up again."

[Matthew 28:18-19](#)

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority (all power) in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."

[Acts 1:8](#)

"... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..."

3. JESUS DOES WHAT HE PROMISES TO DO

[Mark 10:32-34](#)

32 They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way... Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. 33 "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, 34 who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

[Matthew 28:5-6](#)

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

4. YOUR PAST CAN BE FORGIVEN, YOUR PROBLEMS CAN BE MANAGED, & YOUR FUTURE CAN BE SECURE

[Colossians 2:13-14](#)

13 When you were dead in your sins... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

[Romans 8:1](#)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

[John 11:25](#)

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."