

EMPTY TOMB OR EMPTY FAITH

Luke 23:50-56

50

And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just:

51

(The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

52

This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.

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And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

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And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.

55

And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

56

And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

John 19:38-42

38

And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

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And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

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Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

2

41

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

42

There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

I. Vain Precautions were taken to insure that Christ would not arise from the dead:

A. We are guaranteed that Jesus was actually dead:

1. His executioner declared Him dead

[Mark 15:39](#)

39

And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

2. The executioner's superior agreed that Jesus was dead

[Mark 15:45](#)

45

And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

3. Scouring, loss of blood, shock and crucifixion guaranteed His death.

B. He was buried in a solid rock tomb

[John 19:41](#)

41

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

1. It was a new tomb.

2. No one could dig into the tomb.

C. Giving Jesus a Jewish burial confirmed His death

[Mark 15:46](#)

46

And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

1. His body was washed.

2. It was wrapped in linen strips.

D. The entrance to the tomb was covered with a large stone

[Matthew 27:60](#)

60

And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

1. One large stone covered the 4-5 foot hole.

2. It weighed about 1-2 tons.

E. Roman guards were posted at the tomb

[Matthew 27:65](#)

65

Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

1. There were four guards per shift.

2. Both the Romans and the Jews wanted to keep Jesus in the tomb.

F. The tomb was sealed and breaking the seal meant death

[Matthew 27:66](#)

66

So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

II . What could have happened to Jesus' body?

A. There is no debate even with unbelievers that Jesus' body was not in the tomb.

B. His enemies could have stolen the body but they would have produced it later in [Acts 2:29-36](#).

29

Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

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Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that [of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; Ps 132:11 2 Sam 7:12,13](#)

31

He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that [his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. Ps 16:10](#)

32

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

34

For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, [The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,](#)

35

Until I make thy foes thy footstool. [Ps 110:1 Matt 22:44 Luke 20:42 1 Cor 15:25 Heb 1:13](#)

36

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

C. His friends could have stolen Jesus' body:

1. This was unlikely because of all the Roman precautions.
2. If His friends had stolen His body, He would have died for a hoax.
3. God raised Jesus from the dead

[I Corinthians 15:1-4](#)

1

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

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2

By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Conclusion:

A. The resurrection is one event on which our faith depends

[II Timothy 2:8](#)

8

Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

B. We believe by faith based on prophesy and faith that the God who created the laws of nature could choose to defy them with miracles.

C. We must realize that in baptism our sinful self dies, is buried and rises to walk a new life

[Romans 6:1-6](#)

1

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

3

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.