

The Difference The Empty Tomb Makes.

April 4th & 5th, 2026



Read John 20:1-31.

1. Put yourself in Mary's place. If you were going to the gravesite of a loved one and the plot was not only dug up, but the casket open, what would you feel? How do we know that she was not thrilled by what she saw?
2. Why do you think John includes details of the footrace to the tomb?
3. The reactions of those who go to the tomb are varied. **Luke 24:12** gives some more insight into Peter's thoughts. How do the reactions of Mary, Peter and John differ? What do Peter and John resort to doing after seeing the empty tomb?
4. What is the significance of Jesus' burial clothes laying in the tomb? Compare the resurrection of Jesus with that of Lazarus in **John 11:44**.

5. Some who deny the resurrection claim that the disciples of Jesus in their grief went to the wrong tomb or that someone stole the body or that Jesus hadn't actually died. How is that view countered by the events of **John 20**?

6. Why is the resurrection so important according to **1 Corinthians 15:17**?

7. People may argue that there are various things that can help someone overcome grief. How does the resurrected Jesus help us to truly overcome grief?

8. What do we have in common with Jesus in **verse 17**? How does that encourage you?

9. What is the significance of Jesus' address to the disciples considering the circumstances for their hiding as well as how He appeared to them?

10. There's a popular notion that seeing is believing. Does seeing result in more faith according to Jesus? What is the goal of John's writing and its ultimate result? How has the book of John helped your belief?