

Sunday, Easter Sunday – April 9, 2023

WILL YOUR GRAVE BE EMPTY?



John 20:1-18

What superstitions are a part of your family's history? How have they affected you?

Easter Sunday, Resurrection Sunday is the culmination of an event filled week in Jesus' life. All his life has been leading up to this day. All the events of this week, from his rejection, trial, crucifixion is validated by his resurrection on Easter Sunday. In *John 2:19* Jesus makes this prediction, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The resurrection was the confirmation and completion of his ministry on earth. On this morning, his followers are confronted with what they did not expect, and empty tomb. Their response, like ours determines the rest of our lives.

When confronted with the empty tomb I can.....

_____ the empty tomb

Read *John 20:1,2*.

In what ways do I try to evade the evidence of the empty tomb?

How does my response to the empty tomb compare to the first visitors to the tomb that morning?

Read *Luke 7:13-15, Mark 5:37-41, Luke 11:35, Matthew 12:40*. What should have been the disciples expectations regarding the empty tomb this day?

_____ the empty tomb

Read *John 20:3-7*.

In what ways have I avoided encountering Jesus because I know it will force me to make a choice about something?

Am I avoiding encountering Jesus today because something in my life might need to change? _____

_____ the empty tomb

Read *John 20:8-10*.

Have I embraced the truth of the empty tomb for myself? _____

How has my life changed because I have?

Read *1 Corinthians 15:50-56*.

How do Paul's words regarding death encourage me, or challenge me in my thinking about my own life?

From what I from these passages today, will I face my death with confidence or uncertainty about what comes next?

Easter Sunday, Resurrection Sunday Jesus validated his identity and purpose by rising from the dead. This day affects each of us today, and for eternity.

Will my grave be empty?