

EASTER 2007

The Empty Promises of Easter

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Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9

SUSPICIOUS OF EMPTY PROMISES?

- God never made a promise that was too good to be true.
- Instead of promises full of emptiness, on Easter, God gave us emptiness full of promise.

1. THE EMPTY CROSS – The Promise Of Forgiven Sins

Luke 23:33, NIV – *“When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals -- one on his right, the other on his left.”*

Matthew 26:28, NIV – *“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*

- The first “empty promise” of Easter is the empty cross – filled with the promise of forgiveness of sins.

2. THE EMPTY TOMB – The Promise Of Eternal Life

Luke 24:1, NIV – *“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.”*

Luke 24:2-3, NIV – *(2) They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, (3) but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

Matthew 28:5-7, NIV – *(5) The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. (6) He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come*

and see the place where he lay. (7) Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead ...’”

- The empty tomb is God’s way of saying to us; “Relax, my child, I took the sting, death can’t hurt you anymore.”
- The second “empty promise” of Easter is the empty tomb – filled with the promise of eternal life

3. THE EMPTY BURIAL CLOTHES – The Promise Of Relationship With Christ

John 20:6-7, NIV – *(6) Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, (7) as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.*

- Jesus isn’t a philosophy, He is a living Savior, and he desires to have a personal relationship with each one of us
- The third “empty promise” of Easter is the empty grave clothes – filled with the promise of fellowship with Jesus

SUMMARY

- Those same promises are for each one of us today;
- We too can know the freedom of forgiven sins
- We too can know the promise of eternal life in heaven
- We too can know Jesus Christ personally, as our Lord, our Savior, and our friend
- Easter is all about the incredible promises, amazing promises of God
- And the good news is, none of them are empty – and none of them are too good to be true