

THE MATTER OF THE EMPTY TOMB  
Matthew 28:1-20

*After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup>There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." <sup>8</sup>So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' He said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." <sup>11</sup>While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup>When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup>telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'" <sup>14</sup>If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." <sup>15</sup>So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. <sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:1-20 (NIV)

1. The Empty Tomb makes the CHRISTIAN MESSAGE unique and relevant.  
"Come and see..." (vs. 6)
2. The Empty Tomb is our REASON for sharing the GOOD NEWS with others.  
"Go quickly and tell..." (vs. 7)
3. The Empty Tomb is our PROOF that Jesus DEFEATED DEATH and HELL.  
"He has risen from the dead..." (vs. 7)
4. The Empty Tomb demands a RESPONSE from those who choose NOT to BELIEVE.  
"You are to say..." (vs. 13)
5. The Empty Tomb is the DECIDING FACTOR on how we RESPOND to Jesus.  
*They worshiped Him; but some doubted...* (vs. 17)
6. The Empty Tomb is our CATALYST for OFFERING HOPE to everyone around us.  
"Go and Make Disciples..." (vs. 19)

7. The Empty Tomb is our SYMBOL that DEATH has no HOLD over us.  
*"I am with you till the end of the age." (vs. 20)*

- ❖ Closing Truth: The Empty Tomb is our REMINDER that He is COMING BACK.  
*After Jesus said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. <sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*

Acts 1:9-11 (NIV)