

# ***The Empty Tomb***

## *Various Texts*

### ***The Story So Far***

- Jesus had spent the last 3 years of His earthly life:
  - Proclaiming that God's kingdom was becoming reality (Luke 17:20-21)
  - Promising a way for people to have a restored relationship with God (John 14:6, 23)
  - Demonstrating His identity through miracles and signs (John 14:10-11)
  - Prophesying that He would be killed but would come back to life after 3 days (Mark 8:31; see also Matt. 12:40; 26:61; Mark 9:31; 10:34 ; 14:58; John 2:19)
- But after He was arrested, tried, and scourged, Jesus was crucified
  - And after about 6 hours of suffering, Jesus died
- He was removed from the cross, and quickly placed in a nearby tomb by Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus
  - Because the Sabbath was approaching, a day on which Jews would not have touched a dead body

### ***The End of the Story?***

- And if Jesus was anyone else, that would have been the end of his story
- A life filled with empty promises, empty suffering, and empty hope
- And hardly anyone today would have even heard of him
  - He would be, at best, a footnote in some obscure history book like the hundreds of other would-be Messiahs of his day
- But the only thing empty about Jesus is His tomb!

### ***The Empty Tomb***

- Because His Tomb is empty:
  - His promises are full
  - His suffering has meaning
  - And we have HOPE!
- Everything that Jesus said is true!
  - He has made a way for us to have a right relationship with God through faith in Him
  - He is who He said He is
    - And we are who He says we are (John 1:12)
  - Death could not defeat Him but rather He defeated death
    - And through Him, we have new life (John 5:24)
  - The Kingdom of God is at work through the Holy Spirit in us who believe (Rom. 14:17; 8:11)

### **So What?**

- Have you come to know Jesus?
- Are you trusting everything He said?

**Meditation Verse:** *Matthew 28:69*