

## A Celebration of the Empty Tomb, Easter 2020

- ✚ **Matthew 28:1-6**; We are going to be celebrating the empty tomb today, because it is by far the best thing to celebrate any day and especially this day as we remember our Lord's resurrection. In celebrating the empty tomb, we celebrate the end of fear. We don't have to make the resurrection relevant; it already is relevant.
  - ✚ Aren't you glad that this Easter Sunday we get to preach what John Stott called "**the up to minute relevance of Jesus' resurrection**"? Legitimate fear ended with Jesus' resurrection, **Matthew 28:1-6**, That's our message and mission to our world: "Don't be afraid, come and see that He is alive!" Our message has never been more pertinent than it is this day, and it so highlights how a relationship with Jesus leaves all religions in the dust. Jesus and our message about Him go straight to the root of the matter, **Hebrews 2:14-15**. Today, we celebrate the end of that fear because of an empty tomb!
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### 1. The Hard facts

- 1) Everything is dying, especially people.
  - ✓ There is no difference between us and the grass of the field. **Psalms 103:15-16**, Only Christians celebrate an empty tomb.
  - ✓ Consider the words of the One who only laid in His grave 3 days, **John 11:25**.
- 2) Coronavirus isn't what's killing us; sin is.
  - ✓ We've sinned against the living God; that's what's going on; that's the virus that's killing us. We're separated from Him who gives life; that's our virulent problem.
- 3) Jesus holds the only real answer.
  - ✓ The world is scrambling right now, but it has been scrambling for a solution to our biggest problem; a problem that Jesus has already answered. **Revelation 1:17-18**, Jesus holds the keys to death and the grave!
  - ✓ The scientific community does not hold these keys, the doctors, nor the government, nor the economy or stock market; none have the keys. The empty tomb proves that Jesus really is who He says He is. Romans 1:4 "declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection."
  - ✓ Proves that He told us the truth. Jn. 2:19 "Destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it up." Proves that we can be forgiven for our sins: Romans 4:25 "delivered to death for our sins and raised because of our justification." Proves that we can have eternal life through Him. **Jn. 14:19** "because I live you will also live." **John 3:16** "whosoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life."

**We have a word for the world today, but more than a word, we have a person, His name is Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior. The Resurrection is no longer a mere doctrine: it has a living face and a name.**

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