

What if the Tomb Wasn't Empty?

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – March 31, 2013 (Easter)

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9-12... 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15-16... 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. 20 BUT CHRIST HAS INDEED BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

If the tomb wasn't empty, then...

1. CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD. (v. 13)
2. MY PREACHING IS USELESS. (v. 14)
3. YOUR FAITH IS FUTILE AND USELESS. (v. 14 & 17)
4. YOU ARE STILL IN YOUR SINS. (v. 17)
5. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED PROCLAIMING CHRIST AS LORD ARE LOST. (v. 18)
6. YOU ARE TO BE PITIED ABOVE ALL OTHERS. (v. 19)

But, if the tomb really was empty, then...

1. JESUS IS WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE.
What did Jesus claim about Himself? I'm GOD made flesh!

John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

Mark 14:61-62

61 Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62 "I am," said Jesus...

2. JESUS HAS THE POWER HE CLAIMED TO HAVE.

Matthew 28:18

"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

John 10:18

"No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down and power to take it up again."

3. JESUS DOES WHAT HE PROMISES TO DO.

Mark 10:34

"They will mock me and spit on me and flog me with their whips and kill me; but after three days I will come back to life again."

4. YOUR PAST CAN BE FORGIVEN.

Col 2:13-14

13 When you were dead in your sins... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

5. YOUR PROBLEMS CAN BE MANAGED.

Rom 8:11

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

6. YOUR FUTURE CAN BE SECURE.

John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 11:25

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."