

Journey to the Cross: Victorious Journey

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – Easter Sunday (April 16, 2017)

[Matt 27:62-28:7](#)

27:62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." 65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. 28:1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 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. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 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 and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

The empty tomb declares to us the foundational truths of Christianity:

The empty tomb declares that...

1. **JESUS HAS THE POWER TO KEEP HIS WORD!**

Matt 28:6

"He's not here. He is risen. Just as He said."

The empty tomb declares that...

2. **JESUS HAS POWER OVER SIN AND DEATH!**

Matt 28:7

... go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead...'"

The empty tomb declares that...

3. **JESUS HAS POWER TO TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE!**

2 Peter 1:16

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

1 Cor 15:10 (The Apostle Paul)

... [Christ's] grace to me was not without effect.

"HE IS RISEN, JUST AS HE SAID."