

EASTER MESSAGES 2011
A MORNING OF UNIMAGINABLE JOY
LUKE 24:1–9, 11; JOHN 20:3–10



The Heart of the Matter

Tombs, as a general rule, are not fun places to hang out! That is, unless you're an archaeologist looking for treasures of the past. But most of us aren't archaeologists; we're just regular folks who have had some experience with tombs and graves—and none of it very fun or pleasant. Tombs represent finality, loss, and death. You go to tombs and graves to bury loved ones and to mourn—everyone knows that, including those who buried Jesus after His crucifixion. But what they didn't know then, and maybe some of us don't know now, is that a tomb can also be a source of unimaginable joy . . . if the tomb is empty.



Discovering the Way

1. What the Women Saw Perplexed Them (Luke 24:1–9, 11)

Early on Sunday morning, after Jesus's death and burial, a group of women came to the tomb. Seeing the stone rolled away and the body gone, they were perplexed.

2. What Peter and John Saw Filled Them with Faith (John 20:3–10)

When Jesus's disciples, Peter and John, came to the tomb, they also saw the body was missing, but upon closer inspection, they believed.



Starting Your Journey

You now stand at the empty tomb of Jesus. Can you see anything? To see, you have to look. To look, you have to think. And to think, you have to decide. Jesus's tomb is the only one once occupied and now empty. So what will you decide—will you believe what your eyes, your mind, and your heart tell you, or will you turn away?



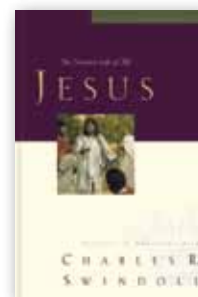
Tools for Digging Deeper



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