***Easter Sunday Morning***

**The Not-So-Empty Empty Tomb**

**John 20:1-10**

“Jesus’ disciples claimed that He had risen from the dead, the Jewish authorities said that His body had been stolen away, and generations of skeptics have maintained that it was all just one elaborate hoax!

***The question is,******what really happened?****”*

The ultimate test concerning the reality of Jesus’ resurrection is whether or not it is supported by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ evidence.

The ***1st*** thing that needs to be pointed out is that in a very real sense, the empty tomb wasn’t really empty \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_.

**John 19:38-42**

**I. The Condition Of The Grave Cloths Eliminates The Possibility Of An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

*(vv 4-8)*

One of the most popular attacks against the resurrection is what is often referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Theory.

This theory says that Jesus’ resurrection never really happened because He never really \_\_\_\_\_!

According to the Biblical and historical evidence, there is simply no question as to the reality and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus’ death. ***e***

If Jesus had walked out of the grave, then how do you explain the condition of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

God has given us evidence for a reason and we dare not \_\_\_\_\_\_ it or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it, but rather take it into consideration and make it a basis of our faith!

**II. The Condition Of The Grave Cloths Explains The Impossibility Of** .

*(vv 5-7)*

Another attack against the resurrection is the one that says that Jesus didn’t really rise from the dead - His disciples simply \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His body away.

**Matthew 28:11-15**

For the disciples to steal the body of Jesus from the tomb would have been a greater ­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than the resurrection itself!

When it comes to Jesus’ resurrection, you have to deal with the evidence, and the evidence doesn’t \_\_\_\_!

Remember, the \_\_\_\_\_\_ was gone but the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ weren’t.

**III. The Condition Of The Grave Cloths Establishes The Reality Of The** .

 *(20:8)*

**Notice the significance of the word translated *“saw”*:**

* ***In v 5*** *the Greek word means* “to take a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at something.”
* ***In v 6*** *the Greek word means* “to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* ***In v 8*** *the Greek word means* “to look with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

The thing that caused John to believe was not just the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the body but it was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the grave cloths.

The fact that John ***“saw & believed”*** leads us to conclude that something \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had taken place.

The ***1st*** thing that struck the minds of the disciples wasn’t the empty \_\_\_\_\_\_ - it was the empty grave \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

All of this evidence is completely meaningless unless it leads you to a personal faith \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the risen and living Lord!

**Conclusion:**

***John saw and believed, but what about you?***

“The resurrection never becomes a fact of experience until the risen Lord lives in the heart of the believer!” ***(Peter Marshall)***

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