

April 17th, 2022 ● Matthew 28:1-15

"The Cross & the Life-transforming Power of Christ" Easter Sunday Message ● by Pastor Marcus Johnson



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Seeking, Proclaiming & Worshipping the Resurrected Christ

1. Know the Resurrection Story: and put your faith in Jesus



• Be inspired by & follow in the example of the two Marys

Do not live in or give in to fear:
 Jesus is alive & is out ahead of us

Know the biblical Jesus:
 who is with us always to the end of the age



Illustration: The Tomb of Jesus (Luke 24:2)

The Gospel writers tell us that after his death, Jesus' body was taken to a garden and laid in a newly hewn tomb (Matt. 27:60; Luke 23:53; John 19:41). This is important archaeological information. Tombs from this period usually consisted of several burial chambers, which had loculi (burial niches) cut in the side walls in which to place the body of the deceased, and also arcosolia (arched niches) where ossuaries (chests for bones) were placed ... The entrance to the tomb would have been low, causing the disciples to stoop down in order to look inside and enter it (cf. Luke 24:12; John 20:5). Only very few of the almost 1,000 excavated tombs of this period in and around Jerusalem had rolling stones to close off the entrance to the tomb. This luxury was restricted to the wealthy. Usually, tomb entrances had square or rectangular closing stones. These stones fit like a cork in a bottle in the tomb opening. The narrow part fit exactly in the inner opening, while the wider part closed off the outer opening. However, the biblical record does say that the stone was rolled away (Matt. 27:60; Mark 15:46; Luke 24:2), and therefore a massive rolling stone (4.5 feet/1.4 m in diameter) is shown in this reconstruction drawing. The rare rolling stone entrance would be consistent with the idea that Joseph of Arimathea was "a rich man" (cf. Matt. 27:57).

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