

The Great Discovery – The Empty Tomb!



John 20:1-10

- The Resurrection distinguishes Christianity from all other religions.
 - The Resurrection is an essential part of the gospel message (1 Cor. 15:1-8), and a key doctrine in the Christian faith.
 - From the very beginning, the enemies of the Lord tried to deny the historic fact of the resurrection.
 - In studying John's account, it must be remembered that John was writing an historical account.
- In discussing evidences, we must remember that God through inspiration has not formulated the Scripture to prove anything.
 1. Mary's unquestioning discovery: the unsealed tomb (V. 1-2).
 - A. Mary visited the tomb early when it was still dark.
 - a. Jesus arose before dawn, before the sun arose on Sunday morning.
 - b. Jesus arose on the first day of the week, on Sunday morning.
 - c. Again, Jesus arose on the first day of the week, Sunday.
 - B. This is strong evidence for the resurrection.
 - When Christ arose, He was in His resurrection body, the spiritual body of the spiritual dimension which has no physical bounds.
 - In Jesus' day tombs were closed by rolling a huge cartwheel-like stone in front of the entrance.
 - The tomb was further secured by being sealed.
 - C. Mary ran to Peter.
 - D. Mary revealed an unquestioning love: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb!"
 2. Peter and John's shocking discovery: the strips of linen (v. 3-6).
 - Note a critical point. If a man wishes to discover the empty tomb he must get up and go forth to look at it.
 3. John's thoughtful discovery: the undisturbed strips of linen (v. 7-10).
 - A. Note the strips of linen.
 - (1) It would be impossible to extract a body from its wrappings and leave them in such good order.
 - (2) The wrappings would have been taken with the body if the body had been removed.

(3)The wrappings would have been disheveled and disarranged if thieves had ransacked the tomb.

(4)The wrappings could never be placed in the exact spot on the rock slab where the body lay.

B. Note John's immediate belief.

- **This is the point of this account of the strips of linen and of the way the account is recorded.**