

Witnesses of These Things

Intro:

imagine thinking it was all a lie - losing hope
...and then finding an empty tomb - this is the surprise of Easter that we are to remember every year

If Jesus rose from the dead everything He said is true- the gospel is true - if He did not - who cares?

dont you see?

the empty tomb does more than demand we believe In Christ
it demands we believe Christ

Problem:

1 Jn 1:1-5

2000 years ago a man claimed to be God and rose again in space time history - the spoke of it and then immediately moved on to what He said.

Easter is about more than an invitation to an empty tomb, a fleeting glimpse, a personal experience
- it is an invitation to follow, to see, and to proclaim the risen, revealed and reliable Word of God

1 Cor 15:1-8, 12-19

the empty tomb is not significant because the bible proves it but because it proves the bible

Main Idea:

Easter is about more than finding an empty tomb
It is about more than catching a fleeting glimpse
it is promoting more than a personal experience

Implication:

- its an invitation to follow the risen Word
- its an invitation to see the revealed Word
- its an invitation to proclaim the reliable Word

Application:

the tomb is empty - He is risen

even though we were not there
we can follow Him now
we can see Him now
we can proclaim Him now

Articles for further study:

<https://www.reasonablefaith.org/writings/scholarly-writings/historical-jesus/the-historicity-of-the-empty-tomb-of-jesus/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/resurrection-Christ-important.html>

Witnesses of These Things

Text:

Easter is about more than finding an empty tomb

Luke 24:1 ¶ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.
Luke 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,
Luke 24:3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.
Luke 24:4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.
Luke 24:5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, **"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"**
Luke 24:6 **He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you**, while he was still in Galilee,
Luke 24:7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."
Luke 24:8 And **they remembered his words**,
Luke 24:9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.
Luke 24:10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,
Luke 24:11 **but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.**
Luke 24:12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

Matt 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19 (they didn't remember His words)
- are you looking for a dead man - a good example, a good story
Matt 26:30-35 (He is Risen, He was not hiding)
- some of you come year after year but you never find Him
- Easter is about more than finding an empty tomb- its an invitation to follow the risen Word
Luke 22:61 (all of His words are important)
- you cannot pick some of His words - and hope to follow Him
Lk 9:20-26 (do not be ashamed of His Words- so even though we were not there we can follow Him now)

It is about more than catching a fleeting glimpse

Luke 24:13 ¶ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,
Luke 24:14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.
Luke 24:15 While they were talking and discussing together, **Jesus himself drew near and went with them.**
Luke 24:16 **But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.**
Luke 24:17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad.
Luke 24:18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"
Luke 24:19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,
Luke 24:20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.
Luke 24:21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.
Luke 24:22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,
Luke 24:23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.
Luke 24:24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."
Luke 24:25 And he said to them, **"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"**
Luke 24:26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"
Luke 24:27 **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**
Luke 24:28 ¶ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther,
Luke 24:29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them.
Luke 24:30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.
Luke 24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.
Luke 24:32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"
Luke 24:33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,
Luke 24:34 saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"
Luke 24:35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.
Matt 24:23-28 (do not be misled?)
- the world is selling you a false christ
Matt 12:3-5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:29-31 (He was right in front of them)
Lk 18:31-43 (do you want to see Him?) -- even though we were not there we can see Him now

It is promoting more than a personal experience

Luke 24:36 ¶ As they were talking about these things, **Jesus himself stood among them**, and said to them, "Peace to you!"
Luke 24:37 But **they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.**
Luke 24:38 And he said to them, **"Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"**
Luke 24:39 **See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see.** For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."
Luke 24:40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.
Luke 24:41 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"
Luke 24:42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,
Luke 24:43 and he took it and ate before them.
Luke 24:44 ¶ **Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."**
Luke 24:45 **Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,**
Luke 24:46 and said to them, **"Thus it is written**, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,
Luke 24:47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
Luke 24:48 **You are witnesses of these things.**
Luke 24:49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
Luke 24:50 ¶ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.
Luke 24:51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.
Luke 24:52 And **they worshiped him** and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
Luke 24:53 and were continually in the temple blessing God.
Jn 20:24-31 (do you want proof - do you want to believe in Him?)
Lk 16:19-31 (believe the Word) -
1 Pet 1:22-25 (Easter is about more than promoting a personal experience- its an invitation to proclaim the reliable Word)
1 Pet 1:3-9 (even though we were not there we can believe Him now)