

Sermon Title:

"The Not-So-Empty Empty Tomb"

Don Jennings, II
Harbour Shores Church
4.24.11

Sermon Text:

John 20:1-10

Introduction:

*"His 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 before us today is what really happened?**"*

- *John 19:38-42; Luke 24:12; John 11:44*

I. The Condition Of The Grave Clothes Eliminates The _____ Of An

(20:4-8)

- One of the most popular attacks against the resurrection is what is referred to as the _____
_____. *What is it?*
- *Jesus' resurrection never really _____ because He never really _____!*
- **According to the biblical and historical evidence, there is simply no question as to the certainty of His death.** _____ of _____ knew that He was dead; the _____
knew that He was dead; the _____ knew that He was dead; and _____
knew that He was dead!
- *If Jesus had walked out of the grave, then how does one explain the condition of the grave clothes!*

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

II. The Condition Of The Grave Clothes Explains The _____ Of

(20:5-7)

- *Matthew 28:11-15*
- *What was the quick response of the Jewish leaders to the problem of the empty tomb?*
- *John 20:19*

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

- *Remember, the _____ was gone, but the _____ weren't!*

III. The Condition Of The Grave Clothes Establishes The Of The

(20:8)

The significance of the word translated "saw"

- In verse 5, it is a word that means "to take a _____ at something."
- In verse 6, it is a word that means "to _____."
- In verse 8, it is a word that means "to look with _____."

- ***The thing that caused John to believe was not just the absence of the _____ - but it was the presence of the _____!***
- John calls our attention to the fact that the napkin that was used to cover Jesus' face was folded neatly and laid to one side: ***what is the message behind this action?*** (Revelation 22:20; John 14:1-34)
- The first thing that struck the minds of the disciples wasn't the empty _____ - it was the empty _____!

If Jesus Christ did indeed rise from the dead, then what does that mean?

Conclusion:

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