

Pastor Jim Jackson, 9/6/26
Days With Jesus, Day 59—The Son Rises
John 20:1-10

The tomb is EMPTY

As the Jewish leaders were afraid the disciples would steal Jesus' body and stage a 'resurrection', they posted a guard (4 sets of 4 men in 3-hour shifts) at the tomb and sealed the stone (Matt. 27:64-66). At dawn on Sunday morning, an angel descended to remove the stone, the guards fainted from fear, and King Jesus resurrected from the dead (Matt. 28:1-6). *The guards could keep people out but couldn't keep the King in!* After Jesus disappeared, the guards ran into town to report to the leaders what happened and were told to tell a lie that they fell asleep, and the disciples stole the body. However, not only is sleeping a death penalty, but if they were asleep how would they know what happened? *Sometimes it's easier to believe a lie than submit to the truth* (Matt. 28:12-14)! After the guards left, Mary Magdalene and other women came to the tomb to anoint his body, but find the stone moved and without going in, they run to tell the disciples Jesus' body is gone. Though they didn't fully understand yet, the stone was left rolled away so they could begin to believe! This moment was so significant, Christians normally meet on the first day of the week (Sunday) to remember his resurrection (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2). *The empty tomb offers us a full life!*

The disciples are CONFUSED

When Peter hears Mary's report, he and John run to the tomb. As they sprint there, John reports that he won. *Even in spiritual moments, it's good to report important facts* (John 20:4)! As they reach the tomb, John stops and looks in while Peter pushes by and enters. They find the cloth burial strips Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped Jesus' body in piled on the floor with the head wrapping folded neatly on the stone bench where his body laid. This showed Jesus took his time unwrapping himself and did everything on purpose with a purpose. *When you know who you are and Whose you are, you move in confidence and security!* This was also evidence the body was not stolen, as no one would stop to strip the corpse before transporting it. With the guards gone, the tomb empty, the burial cloths testifying that something unusual had happened, the disciples are confused but John is confident that something has changed. The seeds of belief started to sprout even when shrouded in uncertainty. *When you don't have total clarity, trust the One who does!*