

"Better to Be Experienced Than Explained"

Luke 24:1-12

Easter 2024

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It was a "shot heard 'round the world." (Phrase applied to only a few historical moments since the Revolutionary War.)

- It was Oct 3rd, 1951, when NY Giant Bobby Thompson's three-run homer in the 9th inning secured the NL pennant.
- If you're an avid baseball fan who happened to stumble across a time machine, you would definitely travel there to _____ it!

The story of Easter has been _____... many times and ways. Yet, the story must be _____.

- Whether one experiences Easter (the empty tomb) or not determines their _____ destiny.

"Wow, okay, now you really have my attention." Awesome. Let's start by reading the story of Easter in our main passage.

Luke 24:1-12

→ **The big takeaway:** It wasn't enough for the disciples to be told that the tomb was empty. They had to _____ it for themselves.

Due to the disciples experiencing the empty tomb... their lives were supernaturally _____.

- "Interesting. Tell me more." Better to *show* you. Have you seen the remake of the "He Gets Us" Super Bowl ad? (1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21)

This life-transformative experience... is centered on a radical encounter with a God of _____. (Ro 5:6-11; Eph 3:16-19)

- A love so impacting that it would cause one to _____. (Rom 2:4; Ac 3:19)

The empty tomb _____ that a God of love exists.

The cross _____ this love. (Jn 15:13-14)

I could keep _____ this 'til the cows come home. Yet, it must be _____. (Jn 3:1-21)

- Actually, it's the explaining that brings about the experience! (Jn 3:16)
- That said, I invite you to experience God's love as I explain the parable of the hidden treasure. (Mt 13:44)

In closing, a question. Have you had the _____ - _____ experience? If yes, then your life surely shows it. – Mt 3:8 (NLT)

**TURN OVER FOR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE: "THE GOOD NEWS MESSAGE REGARDING JESUS AND THE WAY TO BE SAVED."
ALSO, TURN OVER FOR THE GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS.**

“COME AS YOU ARE” BY POCKET FULL OF ROCKS

He's not mad at you - And He's not disappointed - His grace is greater still - Than all of your wrong choices

He is full of mercy - And He is ever kind - Hear His invitation - His arms are open wide

You can come as you are with all your broken pieces - And all your shameful scars
The pain you hold in your heart, bring it all to Jesus - You can come as you are

Louder than the voice - That whispers you're unworthy - Hear the sound of love - That tells a different story

Shattering your darkness - And pushing through the lies - How tenderly He calls you - His arms are open wide

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IN ONE VERSE

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16

“For God so loved the world...” – For God so loved YOU that He has an eternal purpose and mission for your life!

“... that He gave His one and only Son...” – Why did He have to do that? Because He is a holy and just God. On the contrary, we are born with a sin nature and therefore cannot fulfill this eternal purpose and mission God has for us. Sin must be punished and Jesus took our punishment upon Himself and died on the cross in our place.

“... that whoever believes in Him...” - In order for us to be in right standing before a holy and just God and also to fulfill this eternal purpose and mission, we must simply believe in Jesus and accept His offer of forgiveness of all of our sins.

“... shall not perish but have eternal life.” – We will not perish eternally in hell, but rather have eternal life, not only in heaven, but even in the here and now! As a result, we are in right standing before a holy and just God, and we get to fulfill this glorious eternal purpose and mission.

GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS FOR “BETTER TO BE EXPERIENCED THAN EXPLAINED” – 03/31/24

Go through this note sheet and discuss with your growth group and/or your family at the dinner table. Seek opportunities to also share this with your friends, relatives, coworkers, neighbors, and/or school mates. Bring this note sheet to your work and discuss it with your workmate over lunch. Bring it to school and discuss it with your schoolmate over lunch. Read the main passage and look up all of the supporting verses on the other side of this note sheet. Pray with one another.

1. Think about an experience you had in the past that was so dramatic. So mind-bending. Something you will never forget. Something that contributed towards shaping you into who you are today. Be encouraged to share that experience with the group.
2. Explain what experiencing Easter – the empty tomb – means to you on a very personal level. In other words, be encouraged to share your testimony!
 - a. Your testimony comprises of 1) a few brief details regarding what your life was like before surrendering unconditionally to Jesus, then 2) explaining what your conversion experience was like, and finally, 3) what your life is like today. Compared to what your life was like before following Jesus, you should share in greater detail what your life is like today. Also, it should be radically different.
 - b. Do you have any bible verses you can weave into your testimony which will support various details? If not, then be encouraged to look some up with your group!