

It's good when it's empty.

Is an empty cup a good thing?

If you've had a drink and your thirst has been quenched it is.

Usually, when we see something empty, we see it as a negative. Just ask Old Mother Hubbard and her dog. An empty cupboard meant they were going to go hungry.

Emptiness means to most people that something is finished or something is no longer there.

Easter is different.

Emptiness is a great thing.

The cross is empty – Jesus isn't there any more.

The tomb is empty – Jesus isn't there anymore.

Let's look at A few things.

But Let's go back a bit

1. The disciples were empty. The women were empty.

They lost their mate, their hope, their everything.

BUT

The empty cross and tomb meant their emptiness was short lived.

Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV2011)

¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Empty –

That's it!!! Notice it says He is not here, he has risen. Tomb empty of Jesus.

What does an empty tomb mean? Well yeh, he's not there. If he has risen it has implications

It could be:

Options for Emptiness

1. **They moved the body** Kind of like a really good April fools joke.
2. **He didnt die.** Just woke up after three days dead with no food or drink and pushed a three ton rock up a hill and out of the way, scarred iff a bunch of Roman guards. Mm
3. **He rose.** Did tge really weird and amazing thing of becoming alive again after being dead.

That last one has implications. If he rose again, he us something special, particularly when he said he would before he did it.

He has power to control death. He can choose to be alive again.

Here is someone to take notice of.

He said he'd do it and he did but why is the cool thing.

He did it to get us to be ok with God. Because of His action of death and resurrection

We can relate to Him as God.

This is the first post resurrection gospel message. Empty tomb- alive Jesus, alive relationship with God.

How do we react? Lets take a lesson from those women!

⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Points of the lesson.

1. Have a look
2. They hurried to tell people!!!!

But notice Jesus turns up.

⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The message is to tell people of Jesus.

So the result is this

Empty tomb = a story to tell

Easter is about telling people of Jesus