

## Why does the Empty Tomb Matter?

### 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

#### Point 1: Empty Tomb means that Jesus is who He said He is

**Matthew 20:17-19** And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, <sup>18</sup> "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death <sup>19</sup> and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."

- We can trust Jesus' words because his promise came true
- If Jesus had stayed in the tomb, all he had said would have been invalidated
  - C.S. Lewis - Lord, Liar, Lunatic
  - *A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg - or he would be the devil of hell.*
  - Jesus said he would rise from the dead
- But the empty tomb means He is who he said He is (not was)

#### Point 2 – Empty tomb means that we too will be raised

**1 Corinthians 15:14-19** if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

- Pascal's wager, Blaise Pascal
- If Christ wasn't raised from the dead, then we have no reason to hope in our own afterlife

#### Point 3 Empty tomb means that sin is paid for

**1 Corinthians 15:51-57** We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." <sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Empty tomb is a vindication
- The empty tomb means that death has lost its sting, because our sins are paid for.