

THE REACTION TO THE EMPTY TOMB

The women disciples were the first witnesses of the empty tomb of Jesus (Mark 16:1; Luke 24:10). One woman was missing that had attended the crucifixion (John 19:25).

We will study our lesson text by the following five homiletical points regarding the REACTION TO THE EMPTY TOMB of Jesus Christ.

- **Spices** (16:1) **anoint** the body of Jesus (didn't believe in His resurrection/ Luke 23:55-56).
- **Sunday** (16:2) **annual** Firstfruits holiday (Lev.23:9-14; 1Cor.15:20 - resurrection).
- **Stone** (16:3-4) **anticipating** a problem (didn't believe in His resurrection).
- **Statement** (16:5-7) **angelic** announcement of His resurrection [Note description of angels/ Gen.6:1-2; 18:2; 19:1-2; 4 commands; and message for Peter].
- **Stunned** (16:8) **astonishment** and trembling (ekstasis and tromos) reflects mixed emotions and confusion.

This lesson will study SEVEN principles based on the REACTION TO THE EMPTY TOMB of Jesus Christ by the women and men disciples of Jesus.

1st. Principle

The women's stone problem didn't keep them from attempting to solve it. However it was effort based on a false doctrinal premise (Jesus was dead and His body needed burial spices) (16:1).

2nd. Principle

All the disciples had rejected the doctrinal teachings on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matt.12:38-40; 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; 26:2; 27:40; 28:5-6). Therefore, when it came to pass, they were not spiritually prepared to deal with it by the faith cycle.

3rd. Principle

This is why they weren't prepared to believe Jesus had been raised from the dead (Luke 24:6-8). Therefore they were stunned and shocked by experiencing the reality of the plan of God (16:7 –just as He said; Mark 14:26-31; 2 Tim.2:13).

4th. Principle

The question is why weren't the disciples of Jesus willing to believe the teachings of Jesus Christ regarding His passion? The answer is that they held an opposing doctrinal belief regarding the coming of the Messiah (Matt.21:1-11; Luke 24:19-27).

5th. Principle

Jesus appeared first to the women and sent them with the message of His resurrection to the men disciples. The men disciples saw the empty tomb and left without any hope of the resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:8-12). **EVIDENCE OF AN EMPTY TOMB OF JESUS WASN'T ENOUGH TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS.** In fact, Peter didn't see anything in the empty tomb to alleviate his gloom of the death

of Jesus. Only one disciple believed after seeing the empty tomb (John 20:1-10). Thomas didn't believe after many reports of Jesus' resurrection (John 20:24).

6th. Principle

This illustrates how OMCD hinders the spiritual advancing believer's participation in the plan of God (Eph.4:22-24). The disciples were avid students of the word of God but negative to certain doctrines that threaten their perception of things pertaining to their lives (Luke 24:9-12; Matt.22:29; John 2:19-22; Luke 24:46; John 20:19).

7th. Principle

God is faithful in spite of our unfaithfulness (2 Tim.2:13; Heb.11:1). God raised Jesus from the dead based on the word of God (Rom.8:11; Ps.16:10; Acts 2:31-33; 13:34-39; Rom.4:21).