

The Empty Tomb

⁶Then Simon Peter came along behind him (John) and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head...⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed...³¹ But these (words) are written that you may believe (or continue to believe) that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- John 20:6, 7, 8, 31

What did they believe?

They saw and they were sure; they then believed that Jesus was no longer dead and that he was alive! This knowledge changed their lives immediately. But first, they were shocked. These events and thoughts knocked them back on their heels for a second. Where was he?! Where *is* his body?! Where *is* he?! This knowledge got their attention and their minds quickly sped backwards into their mental records of what Jesus had said: "Yes, I will be crucified, and I will die, and then on the third day I will rise again." Wow! What do these things mean, they wondered? Then they put two and two together outside of the tomb...walked inside and realized the truth of the Gospel: Jesus had come to die, AND also to live. They struggled with these thoughts and realized the truth.

What do you believe?

We must struggle with these thoughts and realize the truth for ourselves. Do not expect the culture around you to help you with this discovery. Do not trust only with your own logical brain, even though the Resurrection of Jesus makes total sense and is the most well attested historical fact in all of history. The facts are all well and good, but what are you going to do with those facts? It is not enough to just believe the historical facts, God asks us to believe IN Jesus, the living Christ. God wants us to believe with both our brains and our hearts. Intellectual assent is good, but God wants us to go way beyond that. We must put our trust and faith IN Jesus, himself. Notice this passage:

"But what about **you**?" Jesus asked. "Who do **you** say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Messiah." - Luke 9:20