

**Matthew 28:1-8 / "What the Empty Tomb Holds"  
Jesus offers new life.**

***The Central Element of Faith in Christ is a Disputed and Unnatural Occurrence***

- Let it not be forgotten that Easter celebrates the fact that Jesus, who was dead, is now alive!
- We are told this is hard for *reasonable people* to believe.
- But Christianity rests on this singular event.
- Jesus' resurrection sets Him apart from every philosopher and religious leader.

***What Does the Empty Tomb of Jesus Hold?***

***It Holds the Offer of Life***

- Jesus said:

John 3:16 "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*"

John 11:25-26 "*Jesus said to [Martha], 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.'*"

- What does He mean by "*Life*"?
- Jesus' is different from anyone seen or experienced before.
- He shows a way of *being* and *relating to God* that people cannot imagine possible.
- He exhibits a *familiarity with God* that people never thought possible. (Mark 1:21-22)
- He reveals a *oneness (unity)* with God that people never believed could be experienced. (John 14:8-13)
- He displays a quality of *personhood* people are not familiar with. (forgiveness, compassion, understanding, etc. (John 8:1-11 / Mark 2:14-17))
- All this He offers to anyone who desires. This is what God reveals to be "*eternal life*."

***How Do We Respond to this Offer from the Empty Tomb?***

- Dismiss it as a manifestation of His divinity. - Exclusively engaged in by believers.
- Counterfeit it, religion substitutes personal "happiness" for fulfillment. - Engaged in by believers and non-believers alike.
- Deny it. - Exclusively engaged in by non-believers.
- Accept it. - The life Jesus is an example of the life He offers those who would follow Him. (1 Cor. 15:20 / 2 Cor. 5:15)