

## Empty But Powerful

*Then cometh Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,*

*John 20:6*

When some things are empty, they lose their power to perform the function for which they were designed. A car with an empty gas tank is powerless to move. Guns without bullets are rendered harmless. Water pitchers devoid of water lack the power to quench someone's thirst, and when a person's stomach is empty, they will lack the nourishment and energy to perform simple tasks. In contrast, the empty tomb of the Lord Jesus Christ stands as the powerful force that changed the world.

When Jesus warned His disciples that He must go unto Jerusalem, suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, be killed, and be raised again the third day; Peter rebukes Him saying that this *will not* happen. Later, Jesus also tells Peter that he will deny knowing Him three times, to which Peter replies this *will never* happen. As the plan of Jesus' sacrifice unfolded, Peter denied knowing Jesus, but when the cock crowed, Peter wept bitterly as he remembered the Lord's words. Then as the final judgment of crucifixion occurred, Peter and most of the disciples seemed to go into hiding, fearing for their lives. Three days after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene tells Peter that the stone of the tomb was rolled away and Jesus' body was not there. Hearing her words stirred Peter's interest, but his life was forever changed by investigating it for himself. The empty tomb was the catalyst that caused Peter to remember what the Lord had said. With the powerful message of a risen Savior and the filling of the Holy Ghost, Peter earned the reputation of turning the world upside down. No longer fearing for his life, Peter boldly declared this message. Even after enduring persecution, the apostle rejoiced that he was worthy to suffer for the cause of Christ. Having witnessed the empty tomb, Peter boldly preached the significance of the resurrected Messiah.

The transformational impact of the empty tomb traveled throughout history and continues to this very day. The great commission of going into all the world and preaching the gospel to every creature is the cure for all the ills of this world. The root of this world's chaotic problem is man's internal malady of sin, and all the external attempts to correct the internal problem of sin will fail. The powerful message of the empty tomb and the resurrected Savior always has been and still is God's remedy.

J. Ekis