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The Main Thing Devotional

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Moving On From Empty

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Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." - John 20:15

Just because the tomb is empty, does not mean the story has ended. This resurrection weekend, Christianity will celebrate the empty tomb as it symbolizes Jesus' victory over sin and the grave. However, early on Sunday morning around 2,000 years ago, the empty tomb did not evoke a feeling of praise but a cause for panic. The early disciples were initially horrified to hear that the tomb was empty as they concluded that someone must have stolen the body of Christ.

What do you do when what you expected to be filled is now empty? For the disciples of Jesus, the empty grave not only caused them to weep, but more importantly led them to worship the risen Savior. The empty tomb reminds us that the power of sin and death were defeated by Christ.

We too can experience "empty tombs" in our own lives. Right now, you may be experiencing an empty bank account, marriage, church building, friendship, home, or even an empty relationship with God. Have you ever given your life to something and come up empty? Maybe it was an uncommitted boyfriend or girlfriend, a dead-end job, a seemingly useless degree, a postponed wedding day, or an ungrateful child.

Today, you may be going through an empty experience where your feelings have overshadowed the promise of God's resurrection power. Although you may be experiencing emptiness right now, God wants you to know that your story has not ended – Christ has risen!

Reflection

What empty tomb experiences are you facing right now? Why not take a moment and pray that God will give you the faith of Jesus to reveal the other side of your empty tomb and see the risen Christ! How can the historic reality of the resurrection of Jesus give you confidence and hope in the future?

Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, thank You for giving us Your Son so that we can experience the power of His resurrection in our lives. Help us to not lose heart when we face the test of emptiness. May we find courage in knowing that such tests lead us to appreciate Your fullness in our lives in greater measure. May the cleansing power of Your blood revive our hearts to be grateful for the sacrifice You made for us on the cross and to tell others the Good News – Christ has risen and is coming back soon!

NEWS AND RESOURCES

- **Engaged/Newly Married Couples Event:** On Friday, April 23 and 24 in the Hulsey Wellness Center upper-level classrooms, The School of Religion and the Office of Ministry and Missions are collaborating to give our engaged and newly married couples practical steps for building a loving and healthy marriage. **Register Now:** [Sign-up](#) (Spaces are limited!)
- Share your prayer requests or praises with us via text message using your mobile phone. **Text-to-Pray: 423-281-8996.**
- **Need to talk to someone?** We encourage you to make an appointment with Chaplains [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to talk to for support, prayer or have a desire to grow spiritually.