

SONDAY INFORMER

First Baptist Church
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Mission Statement:

Sunday School is FBC's primary Great Commission strategy for reaching, teaching and ministering to the people of Winnsboro.

Go, therefore, and **make disciples** of^f all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe** everything I have commanded you. **Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB)**

Is Empty Good or Bad ?

Normally, the concept of something being empty isn't really a good thing. Empty gift card, empty coffee cup, empty wallet, etc. But when it comes to the empty tomb, it **IS** good!

I would like to take the next few moments and explain to you why empty **IS** good.

First, empty is a good thing. When we look at Easter in the proper light, and we understand what really happened, and what was going on, and why we celebrate Easter...empty is a good thing.

When Jesus was murdered and nailed to a cross, they buried Him in a tomb and rolled a huge, heavy stone in front of the tomb. Three days later something unbelievable happened. The tomb was **EMPTY**. In Luke 24:1-8, we remember the story when the women took the spices they had prepared to anoint Jesus' body to the tomb. Once they arrived, the tomb was empty. The women found two men (angels) that asked them "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how He told you, while he was with you in Galilee." (V5-6). Empty is a **VERY GOOD** thing.

Secondly, empty is proof. Mark 8:31 explains the proof that Jesus is who he says he is. "He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again."

Have you ever heard someone make a bunch of claims, but could not back it up? Jesus didn't do that. We just saw where Jesus said he would die and rise again after three days...and He backed it up. Now I can follow someone who makes a claim as huge as this, and then backs it up!!

Next, empty is powerful. Jesus has power over death. Because Jesus died and rose again, because Jesus is who he says he is, Jesus has power of sin's greatest weapon...death. Jesus is the one who says I can give you life, I can make it so that you will never really die...that even after life on earth is done with you, you will live with me forever...because that is how much I love you!

The empty tomb shows us that Jesus has power over death. He looked death straight in the eyes. He took death's best sting and overcame it! That is powerful!

Lastly, empty is permanent. You know plenty of people visit Jerusalem every year. Plenty of people walked down some of the same roads that Jesus may have walked down. One of the places people love to visit is the place where historians believe Jesus was buried...and guess what?

The tomb is **STILL** empty! Jesus wasn't in the tomb 3 days after he died. He isn't in the tomb today and never will be. Jesus is God and is alive forever! His body wasn't stolen. His body wasn't in the wrong tomb and it wasn't some magic trick. When we look at the true meaning of Easter and everything Jesus did for us on the cross...**empty is a good thing!** Empty means Jesus is who he says he is. Empty means Jesus has power over death, hell and the grave. Empty is permanent! Jesus is permanently alive and death will never overcome him again. When we decide to follow Jesus instead of following our own selfish desires, we too, can begin to really live!

I pray as you celebrate RESURRECTION Sunday that you keep in mind, **EMPTY IS A GOOD THING!**



David Henry
Minister of Education
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PRAYER

Our Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) would like to encourage the church to remain in a season of prayer as we, as a church, seek the man God has for us as our new pastor. This prayer and scriptures are being sent out by Remind messages daily at the request of the Pastor Search Committee. This week's prayer and scripture is below. Take time each day to pray the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, You are so good to us, and we praise Your holy name forever. Thank You, Lord, for how You have been beside this body and carried us through this entire process. Now, Lord, we earnestly pray for Your perfect will to be done. We truly believe You have shown us the direction, and now we pray that it would come to pass according to Your plan and for Your glory alone. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Scripture Reference : Psalm 34:1-4

weekly ANNOUNCEMENTS



Goal : \$8,025.00

Received: \$5,364.17



Remember to grab some extra canned goods the next time you are at the store! We would like to continue to support the Resource Center throughout the year!



Let's Pray! Join us for a time of corporate prayer for our church body. Sunday mornings, 8:00 am, in the GMRC. Let's fill up the room with prayers to the Lord!



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| 9:00—9:10 Fellowship & Announcements | 9:10—9:20 "REACH" Spotlight | 9:20-10:00 "TEACH" People God's Word | 10:00—10:15 "MINISTER" in Care Groups/Prayer Time |
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