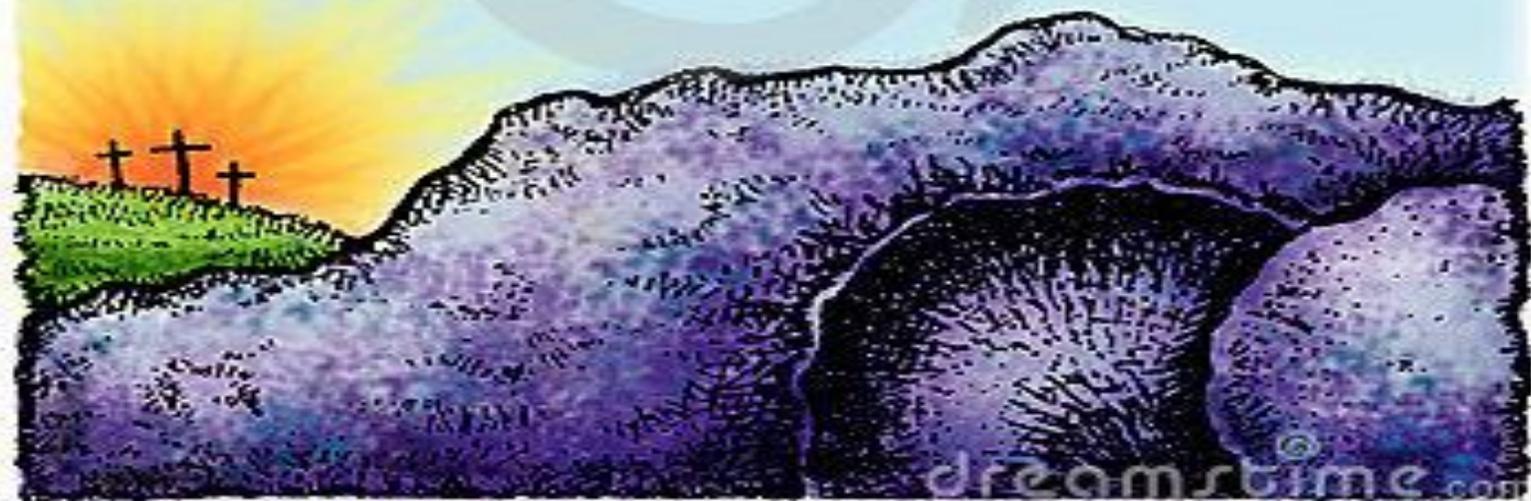


Christ is Risen
Alleluia!



Empty at Easter

Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 15:42-16:8,
Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-10



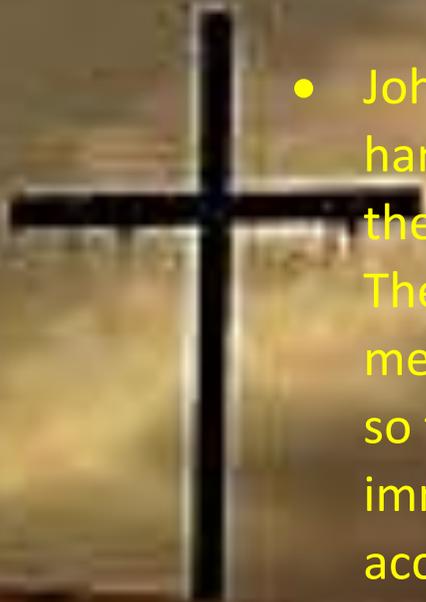
• Empty or Full?

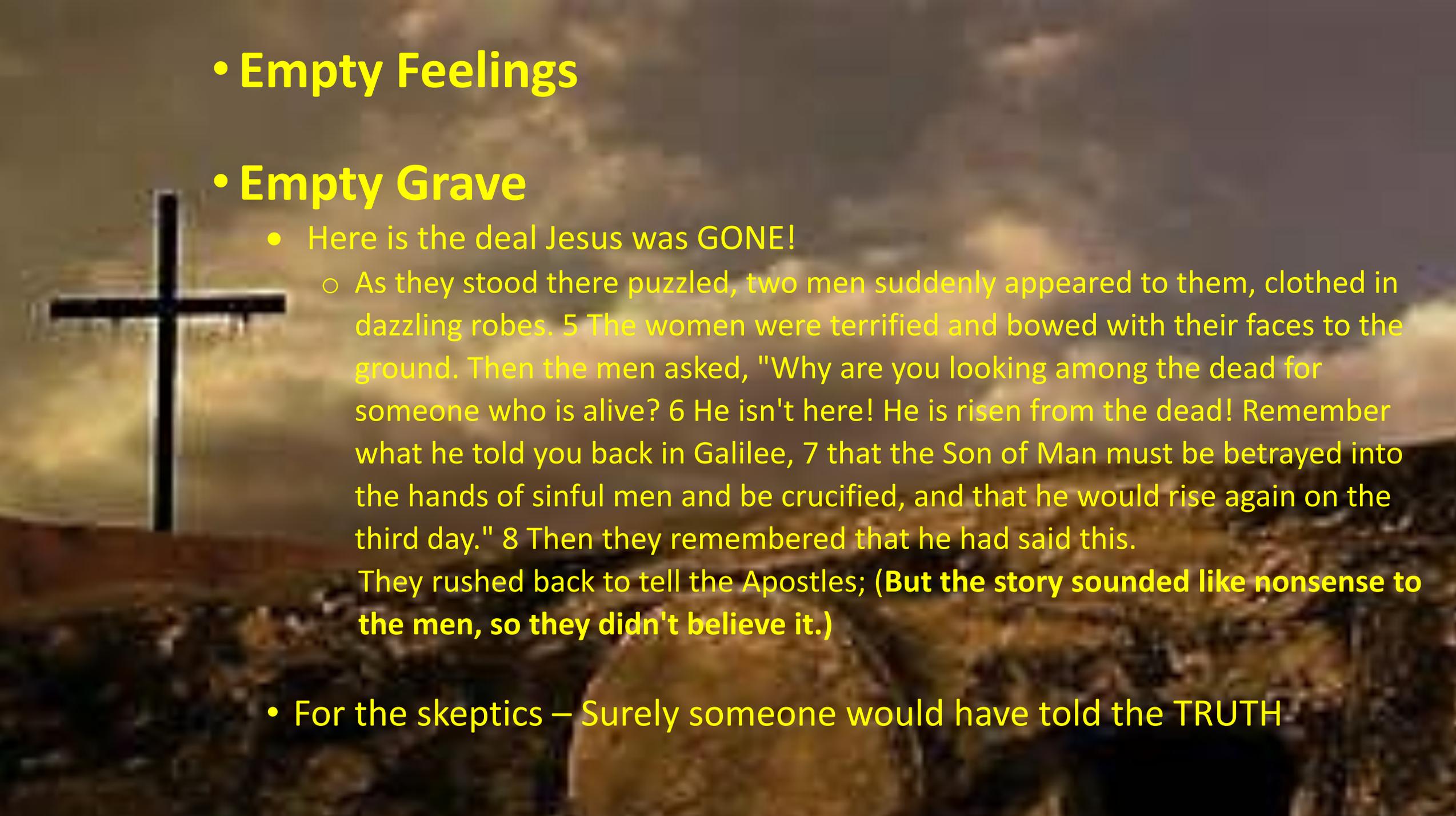
- **Luke 24:1-12** But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 3 So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. 5 The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day." 8 Then they remembered that he had said this. 9 So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. 11 **But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.** 12 However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.



• Empty Cross

- Once crucified a person could last for hours up to a few days before they died.
- John 19:31-37 It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was the Passover). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. 33 But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. 34 One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. 35 (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also can believe.) 36 These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken," 37 and "They will look on the one they pierced." NLT



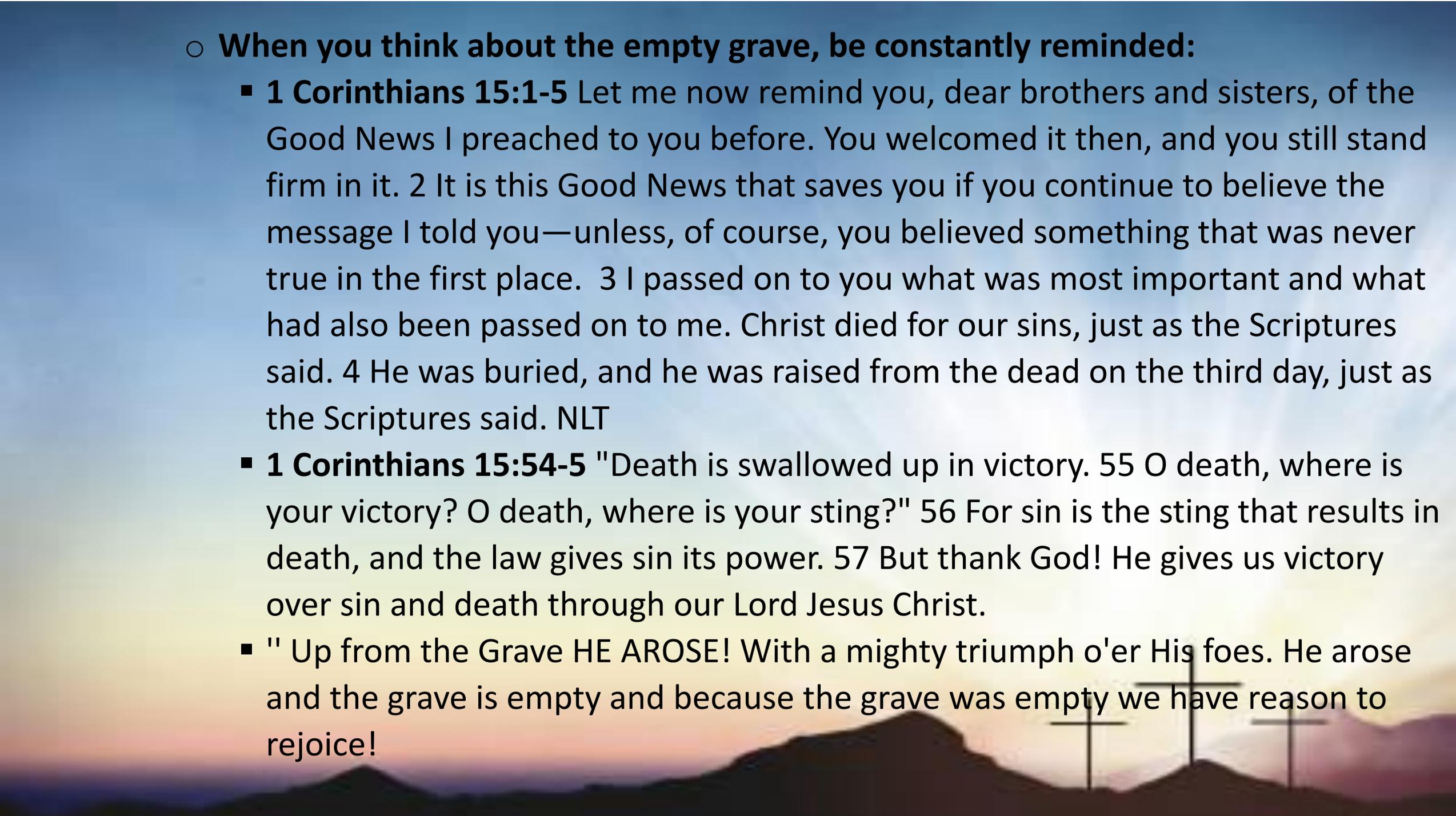


- Empty Feelings

- Empty Grave

- Here is the deal Jesus was GONE!
 - As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. 5 The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day." 8 Then they remembered that he had said this. They rushed back to tell the Apostles; **(But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.)**

- For the skeptics – Surely someone would have told the TRUTH

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- **When you think about the empty grave, be constantly reminded:**
 - **1 Corinthians 15:1-5** Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. 2 It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. 3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. NLT
 - **1 Corinthians 15:54-5** "Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - " Up from the Grave HE AROSE! With a mighty triumph o'er His foes. He arose and the grave is empty and because the grave was empty we have reason to rejoice!

Empty Clothes –

- It is John who shares the account of the empty clothes. John 20:7-10 While the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. 8 Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— 9 for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.
 - Perhaps He took off His burial clothes like one day we, His children will discard this fleshly body!
 - **1 Corinthians 15:42-44** It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. 43 Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. 44 They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies. NLT

Empty Before!!!

- When we think about all the “Empty at Easter” we need to remember that something else had to take place that made all this a reality!
 - Philippians 2:5-8 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.
- Jesus emptied Himself that we could be filled and fulfilled.
 - Jesus was fully God. Jesus was fully man. He had to empty himself of everything to bring us from a place of emptiness to a place of being filled-fulfillment. This was God’s purpose for Him and for us.

Still Empty

- **An Empty Heart**

- Romans 10:9-11 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. NLT

- **An Empty Life**

- **An Empty Hope**

Empty/Full – These are opposites

- The only way we can be truly full is to first become empty!
- He must increase, and I must decrease (**John 3:30**).
 - Are we looking for things and people to fill our emptiness?
 - **Matthew 11:28** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.