

The Pulpit Of The Empty Tomb

“To whom also He shewed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3).

Since we were always going to church and constantly around gospel preaching, praying and singing, my cousins and I would often play church in our front yard. In fact, my mother has a picture of me standing on a stump preaching to a few of my cousins as they stood close by. She also has a picture of several of us on our knees praying together. While we were only playing, the pictures indicate that we were very serious in what we were doing.

I'm not sure what the stump had to do with my preaching. Maybe it elevated me above my cousins like the pulpit platform elevated the pastor above his hearers. For sure, this reminds us that what our little ones take in will often work its way out of them. In fact, may we pray that the present generation of children will come under the influence of good gospel preaching, praying, and singing.

As far as we know, the Lord Jesus never used a stump for a pulpit. The Sermon on the Mount was delivered on a mountain (see Matt. 5:1). Jesus once preached to the Pharisees in a corn field, or a wheat field (see Mark 2:23-28), and He once taught “by the sea side” (Mark 4:1). Luke mentions that He taught the people out of a ship (see Luke 5:3). As He died, the cross became His pulpit. And, the empty tomb became a pulpit of truth after His resurrection.

The empty tomb became a pulpit of prophetic confirmation! Jesus did not rise from the dead without warning. The prophet Isaiah prophesied that after He had made “His soul an offering for sin,” He would “see His seed” (Isa. 53:10). And Jesus Himself had promised that after He was slain, “on the third day” He would “rise again” (Mark 10:34). The empty tomb confirmed that these prophecies were valid.

The empty tomb became a pulpit of energetic consideration! When Mary Magdalene found the sepulcher empty, she ran to tell Peter and John (see John 20:2). When they heard her report, “they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulcher” (20:4). The Emmaus disciples even returned to Jerusalem to proclaim that they had seen the resurrected Christ. May we be motivated by this same spiritual energy!

The empty tomb became a pulpit of magnetic compassion! After His resurrection, the Lord Jesus was particularly and compassionately drawn to His people. He “shewed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3). He loves us, as well, and would make Himself known to us by His Spirit. Oh, to know our living Lord more intimately!

