

The Empty Tomb

By Bill Pugh

Saint Luke describes the early morning scene on the first day of the week after the Sabbath. The women arrived to perform the ritual anointing of the body of Jesus as was the custom. The RSV translates their reaction with a very expressive word. PERPLEXED. Because the huge stone had been rolled away and the body gone. A devastating blow to their already distraught state. Nowhere to grieve now, no resting place for their beloved.

How could the stone have been rolled away? Had his body been stolen? Many were their thoughts. So confused, that they did not notice two men in dazzling apparel standing nearby. The two men said, “*Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.*” And they remembered his words.

Reflection:

Have we become blasé about the Easter message? We should be perplexed, and remember. It is for you and me, that he died. In person, by name. Let us read again Luke 24, and on our knees be thankful!

This is no idle tale, which was the apostles first reaction to the women's discovery, early on the first Easter morning.