

Knowledge of Jesus' Resurrection

Matthew 28:1-11

The following paragraph from *The Case For Christ* correctly speaks to the evidential importance of this account's description of *women* having found the empty tomb:

When you understand the role of women in first-century Jewish society, what's really extraordinary is that this empty tomb story should feature women as the discoverers of the empty tomb in the first place. Women were on a very low rung of the social ladder in first-century Palestine. There are old rabbinical sayings that said, 'Let the words of Law be burned rather than delivered to women' and 'blessed is he whose children are male, but woe to him whose children are female.' Women's testimony was regarded as so worthless that they weren't even allowed to serve as legal witnesses in a Jewish court of Law. In light of this, it's absolutely remarkable that the chief witnesses to the empty tomb are these women... Any later legendary account would have certainly portrayed male disciples as discovering the tomb – Peter or John, for example. The fact that women are the first witnesses to the empty tomb is most plausibly explained by the reality that – like it or not – they were the discoverers of the empty tomb! This shows that the Gospel writers faithfully recorded what happened, even if it was embarrassing. This bespeaks the historicity of this tradition rather than its legendary status. (William Lane Craig as quoted by Lee Strobel, p. 293)

I. Knowledge of Jesus' Resurrection Should Lead to Joy (vs. 8, 9)

II. Knowledge of Jesus' Resurrection Should Lead to Confidence (vs. 5, 8, 10)

III. Knowledge of Jesus' Resurrection Should Lead to Worship (vs. 9)

John 2:19-22
John 10:17-18
Ephesians 1:15-21
Romans 8:11

IV. Knowledge of Jesus' Resurrection Should Lead to Obedience (vs. 11)

V. Knowledge of Jesus' Resurrection Should Lead to Proclamation (vss. 8-9, 10b)

Matthew 28:18-20
1 Corinthians 15:1-4