

The story is told of a young man from a wealthy family who was about to graduate from high school. It was the custom in that affluent neighborhood for the parents to give the graduate an automobile. The young man and his father had spent months looking at cars, and the week before graduation, they found the perfect car. On the eve of his graduation, his father handed him a gift-wrapped Bible. The young man was so angry that he threw the Bible down and stormed out of the house. He and his father never saw each other again. It was the news of his father's death that brought the young man home again. As he sat one night going through his father's possessions that he was to inherit, he came across the Bible his father had given him. The old feelings of betrayal and anger welled up in him again as he thought of the empty promise of his father. He brushed away the dust and opened the Bible for the first time. Inside, he found a cashier's check, dated the day of his graduation - in the exact amount of the car they had chosen together.

We have all been victims of empty promises. Maybe we have bought into the promises on TV that, if we only purchase this product or that, we'll be more beautiful, more successful and more attractive! Maybe we've bought into the world's promise that we can be happy if we satisfy our every want and desire. The truth is; the world's promises are full of emptiness. But this Easter, there is another truth that we celebrate. It is the truth of emptiness that is full of promise.

There is the emptiness of a wooden Cross. On that Cross, the Prince of Glory gave His life to pay for the sins of His people. On that Cross, God's wrath and judgment was poured out onto the spotless Lamb so the Father's perfect justice could be served. The emptiness of a wooden Cross means that all of the work required for a person to get to heaven has been accomplished in full.

Then there is the emptiness of the tomb. When the women showed up on that Easter morning, they came to anoint the body of Jesus. They came to weep and mourn for their Lord. What they found, was an empty tomb. Jesus had risen! The empty tomb means that God's justice has been satisfied. It means that Jesus is not only a sinless Savior, but a living Savior! It means that there is more to life than the here and now; that there is hope for us.

In 1 Corinthians 15:55 we read, “O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?” How wonderful to know that death’s sting has been swallowed up in victory and that the grave has been defeated!

What promise we find in the emptiness of Easter! Celebrate today with the hope of a risen Savior!