

The Stone

Stones are mentioned all through-out Scripture. They were used at many different times and for many different purposes. A stone, as defined by: dictionary.com, *is a piece of rock; quarried and worked into a specific size and shape, for a particular purpose.* Stones are ordinary pieces of rock, used in extraordinary ways. Stones were used for making vessels to hold liquid. Some were used for building homes, altars, and temples. They were used as weapons in war, and as most of you know, David, used one stone in a slingshot to defeat the giant-Goliath of Gath. Joshua took twelve of them from the Jordan River to build an altar of remembrance after the whole nation of Israel crossed through the river on dry ground. Larger stones were used to seal off wells of water and dens of lions. The tomb of Lazarus was sealed by a stone, that is, before Jesus raised him from the dead. Just ordinary pieces of rock made into stones of different sizes, for different uses, that make lasting impressions on our minds and in our lives. But none perhaps as big as the importance of the stone that sealed off the entrance to the grave of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. All four of the Gospels make mention of this stone. Matthew 28:1-3 tells us that the angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it. Mark 16:2-5 says that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. Luke 24:1-6 states that they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, and John 20:1 says that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. Please read these passages of scripture. Notice that Jesus had already been raised from the dead.

But when they looked up, they saw the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

“Don’t be alarmed... You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”

Mark 16:4,6

That stone - was rolled away - for us. All of us. For you. For me. For Mary Magdalene. For the disciples. For anyone that wants to look in and see an empty tomb. That stone was moved – not so Jesus could get out – so that we could see in! God did that stone-moving out of love for us. He knows that we are human. We want proof. We need a visual. We have to relate. He used a stone – an ordinary piece of rock - in an extraordinary way – so that we can know that our Savior lives.

The stone. The tomb. The reminder.

The tomb is still empty.

Happy Easter,

The Christian Center Staff