

COVID-19 Can't Change the Empty Tomb

"Easter is canceled this year!" my youngest sister said.

As we watched the president's announcement to "Stop the spread for 30 days," all of us slumped into our family couch.

Since March 17, I have had the privilege of working at home, only seen two other people outside of my family and not left my house but once. And believe it or not, it's gotten to be a little tiring.

Before all of this, I had bought an Easter dress, was looking forward to Easter worship and had been dreaming about lunch with my loved ones. But, thanks to COVID-19 and the president's new guidelines, my dreams were shattered. Sitting on my couch, even I started to ponder my sister's statement.

Is Easter canceled?

No one in my family has missed an Easter Sunday service, and due to our faulty Wi-Fi out here in the middle of nowhere, we won't even be able to stream a service. This is heartbreaking to me and so many others.

Is Easter canceled?

The answer is: yes and no.

Like many of you, our long-term traditions *are* canceled. There will be no Easter dress, family get-togethers, coconut cake or egg hunts with kiddos.

But no, because as much as Satan would love to "cancel" this day, the tomb is still empty, and the Lord is still on the throne. The only way Easter could be canceled is if what had happened on Golgotha was undone.

Can you imagine?

What if when the women went to the tomb, there was a body?
Easter canceled.

What if Jesus had changed His mind in Gethsemane? Goodbye
Easter.

What if the cross on Golgotha's hill was empty? Bam. No hope,
not even a little bit.

If Jesus told His Father no when He was asked to come down and
save a filthy world from sins, then Easter would have been
canceled. And that is a terrifying thought, to say the least.
If it were the truth, we would be hopelessly on our way to
hell, not scrounging around for a new dress.

Easter is not canceled. Easter is going to be spent with your
family (possibly in your pajamas). There may not be a big band
singing praise and worship songs or a pastor in front of you,
but if you have the Word, you and your family have an
opportunity to read what He has given us right from the people
who witnessed them.

Take that, Satan.

It's easier to think about churches being empty than a tomb
still full. We will miss our church, family and traditions,
but instead of focusing on what we don't have this season,
look at what we do have. An exciting opportunity to worship
with those you love the most as you celebrate the tomb is
still empty! Christ has risen indeed! COVID-19 can take away a
lot of things, but not the fact that the tomb is forever
empty.

"He said to them, 'Do not be frightened. You are looking for
Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen. He is not
here. See the place where they laid Him'" (Mark 16:6). {eoa}

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