



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Horace Mann truly experienced life. Although he had very little formal education while growing up, he learned enough on his own to gain entrance into Brown University and graduated with highest honors. Mann practiced law, taught in the university, served in the Massachusetts legislature, and became secretary of the Board of Education. His educational program in Massachusetts became a prototype for the rest of the US. At age 52 he became a US Congressman and later assumed the presidency of Antioch College in Ohio.

In a baccalaureate address just a few weeks before his death, Mann closed his speech with these words: "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity."

Horace Mann won many victories for humanity during his lifetime. When we compare Mann's life with the life of Jesus, it looks like he achieved an even higher level of success. More people knew Horace than Jesus during their lifetimes. Mann died a celebrity, but Jesus died a poor criminal.

Today, few people remember Horace Mann — he lost everything when he died. He couldn't tow his successes with him to the grave in a U-Haul truck — but over 1 billion people worship Jesus. Jesus' followers do not worship Him because of the great victories He won in His life, but the one He won in His death. This was His greatest victory.

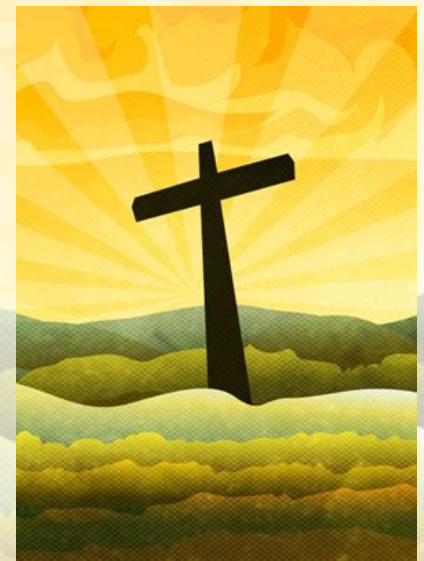
During His life, Jesus was a Servant who was despised and rejected. Despite the crowds which often followed Him, He was not popular by today's standards. He didn't associate with people who were part of the right social and political circles. He was sensitive to the hurting people around Him: He befriended adulteresses, tax collectors, fishermen, prostitutes, and drunkards — not exactly the company you would want to keep if you

had plans to make a name for yourself. If death was Christ's greatest victory, then why did He do it, and what did it accomplish? I'm glad you asked! Jesus died in submission to the will of His Father. It was necessary for Him to die because the penalty for sin is death, and all of mankind had sinned. The only way God could allow sinners like me and you into Heaven was if our sins were removed. Our sins were removed when Jesus died in our place as a sinless Substitute. His death satisfied God's requirement.

Difficult as it may sound, death on the cross was a wise decision for Jesus because it resulted in His Resurrection and exaltation. But that wasn't the only reason He died: He was motivated by His love for the Father and for us!

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:15, "And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." Here's what all of this means: Because of the love of Christ, we were saved from our sins. Because of our love for Christ, we should live for Him!

- Dr. L.W. Edwards



RESURRECTION, OR JUST AN EMPTY CASKET?

The funeral began and ended like most others. Friends and family gathered to pay their final respects to 25-year-old Julie Mott, who had died from cystic fibrosis. But less than three hours after the last family member had departed from Mission Parks Funeral Chapel North, Julie's body vanished.

Julie's empty casket caused quite a stir in her San Antonio community, drawing international media attention. Investigators speculate her body was stolen, but to this day it has never been found.

When Jesus died nearly 2,000 years ago, a friend allowed His body to be interred in his own tomb. A heavy stone blocked the entrance, and a Roman seal ensured the sepulcher and its contents were tamper-proof. Furthermore, soldiers guarded the burial site, lest any of His followers should try to steal the body.

Three days after Jesus' interment, a group of women visited the tomb. They noticed the massive stone which had blocked the entrance now rested beside it. The soldiers were gone. A glimpse inside the grave revealed it was empty. The emptiness of the tomb caused confusion, not unlike that which Julie Mott's family experienced.

Word quickly spread about the missing body of Jesus. The first women at the scene rushed to tell Jesus' other followers about the empty tomb. Two of Jesus' disciples ran to the gravesite and confirmed the women's account. The tomb truly was empty, but the corpse was never found.

This is where the similarities between these two stories end. That's because the eyewitness accounts of the deceased take us in two strikingly different directions. Julie Mott's friends and family never saw her body again. Yet within one day of the report of Jesus' vacant burial plot, His followers claimed to see Him alive.

Anyone can claim to see a dead celebrity — who hasn't heard about posthumous Elvis sightings? But there's something different about the claims of Jesus' Resurrection. Whereas some would dismiss the event as a byproduct of hallucination or clever collaboration on the part of Jesus' disciples, the eyewitnesses seal the case.

Testimony of Hostile Witnesses

The religious leaders responsible for Jesus' crucifixion had to make up a story to explain the empty tomb. They knew where Jesus had been buried and set guards to watch the gravesite. If Jesus' followers had fabricated their claim, the religious elite would have simply pointed out the undisturbed tomb and silenced all rumors. The fact they fabricated a story to explain the vacant grave proves it was really empty.

Testimony of Favorable Witnesses

Not a single one of Jesus' disciples stood by Him when guards captured Him and hauled Him off to trial. In the hours before His arrest, Jesus took Peter, James, and John to watch and pray with Him — but they fell asleep on the job. When the soldiers arrived, Peter cut off a bystander's ear, then followed Jesus from a distance to the Judgment Hall. But then he denied Christ three times. After Jesus' death, Peter and some of his fishing buddies gave up on the whole "following Jesus" routine and returned to their former profession. You could say they had serious commitment issues.

Sometime after the empty tomb was reported, the disciples were suddenly emboldened to follow Jesus again, regardless of personal cost. Ten of them, including Peter and James, laid down their lives attesting to the reality of the risen Savior. The transformation was not due to the empty tomb, but their encounter with the One who once occupied it. After the disciples saw Jesus, over 500. . . . [Full Article](#)



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