

Ko'olau Baptist Church  
45-633 Keneke St.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744



April 2022

## The Empty Tomb Effect

Matthew 28:1-10



Pastor Skip Woodfin

We wouldn't think that a typical vacation would include a visit to a cemetery or a tomb, and yet, across our nation and across the world there are a few places where a tomb or a cemetery would be on top of the list of places to visit. We find a perfect example of that here in Hawaii. The Arizona Memorial is visited by hundreds of thousands and many are surprised to learn the sunken vessel is a tomb of the war dead. Arlington National Cemetery next to Washington D.C. has the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. My wife, Dana, visited there on a senior trip in high school, and she said it was the most moving and impressive aspect of the entire trip.

Sometimes we visit tombs for other reasons. For example, every year baseball-loving tourists find their way to Oahu Cemetery, in Nu'uano to view the burial site of Alexander Cartwright, "The Father of Baseball," to honor him for his contribution to the game of baseball. To pay homage to him, many visitors leave baseballs at his grave.

Others visit tombs for their magnificence such as the the Pyramids of Egypt, which is an Ancient engineering feat. The Taj Mahal in India (Tomb of Shah Jahan's favorite wife) is made of marble and precious stones. It is called the most eloquent and beautiful structure in existence today. It took twenty thousand workers 22 years to erect this masterpiece. The architect was blinded by the emperor so that he could never duplicate this building.

But no tomb can compare to one in a garden in Jerusalem. It is an empty tomb for it is the place where Jesus was buried. He came forth from the grave just as He said. Visitors say it is an unforgettable experience to visit the empty tomb. I propose as we visit the empty tomb this Easter, by faith, that their experience will be ours. The empty tomb should have an effect on us.

**First, the empty tomb should eliminate our fears. (vs. 1-5).** Women were the first visitors to the tomb to bring spices to anoint the body of their Lord. They expected to find a dead body - but no! Instead there was an earthquake and the angel came and rolled the stone away. The angel appeared in a dazzling display of glory. The soldiers were struck with fear. The women would have been afraid as well, but the angel said "Fear not." The empty tomb can dispel our fears. I John 4:18 tells us that "perfect love casteth out fear." God's great love on the cross casts out fear. Jesus died that we might have life. II Timothy 1:7 says, "God hath not given us a spirit of fear, but of love and of power..." The power of His resurrection enables us to stand before God justified, (Romans 4:25).

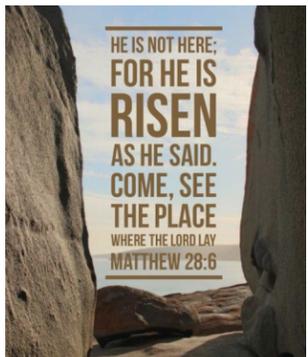
Illustration: During Desert Storm in 1991, a mom received news that her son had died. For three days she wept and could not be consoled. The son heard of the false report of his death that his mother received, so he called his mom to tell her he was alive. At first she

didn't believe that he was alive, and thought it was a cruel hoax, but after hearing his voice she was convinced, and her fears were relieved.

**Second, The resurrection establishes our faith vs. 5.** "Come see the place..." The invitation was to rejoice in the empty tomb. It was proclaimed "He is not here, he is risen as he said." He was raised according to scriptures. (I Corinthians 15:3, 4) His resurrection was demonstrated according to Acts 1:3 by "many infallible proofs." What proofs? There are many. He made 10 personal appearances after his resurrection. He was seen by many witnesses including over 500 at one time (I Cor. 15:5-9). There is the proof of the empty tomb. The Roman guards at the tomb were under threat of death if they did not guard the tomb carefully. Peter arrives at the tomb and finds the burial clothes wrapped neatly. If the body were stolen, the thieves would not have taken an unclothed body, and they would not have taken the time to fold the clothes neatly. The greatest testimony of a resurrected Lord is the countless lives changed by his power and the explosive growth of the church. Our faith is established in a living Lord. An African Muslim was converted. When he was asked how he made the decision to follow Christ, he answered, "Well if you are going down life's road that leads to eternity and you come to a fork in the road. Two men have written instructions on which way to go - you chose the one who is living."

**Third, the Empty Tomb Excites Our Joy - vs. 8.** It would be sad to serve a cold, dead, pagan God, but it is real joy to serve a living Lord. The Christian rejoices with "joy unspeakable and full of glory," (I Peter 1:8). In 1799, Napoleon's French Army came to the city of Feldkerk, Austria. It was on an Easter Sunday and the people panicked. The preacher said that they would ring the church bells and have Easter Service anyway. The French Army heard the bells and heard the singing and thought it was in celebration of the Austrian Army coming to the rescue, so the French Army departed and the city was saved. The point is simple - when the joy bells ring in our heart, we are victorious.

**Finally, the Empty Tomb Energizes our Witness.** One of the last things the angels say is "go quickly." We are not to be filled with fear but with awe at a living Savior. We must have abundant joy to tell the good news that our Savior conquered death and the grave, and lives today to save us. Follow the history of the early believers and you will observe that it was with great delight and eagerness that they brought the good news to the world. Let's surrender to our living Lord that our lives may be renewed toward greater service to Him.



## CONNECT WITH US

- Church Website: [koolaubc.org](http://koolaubc.org)
- Facebook Page: **Ko'olau Baptist Church & Academy**  
Announcements, upcoming church activities, event photos, and videos.  
**LIKE & SHARE** our page and start posting your pictures, comments, check-ins at events and please tag us in your social media
- Instagram: **@KBaYouth808** YOUTH group events & media
- Download the **Church Center App**. to get better connected

Service Times	
<b>Sunday</b>	
Connecting Points Small groups	9:30 am
Worship Service	10:30 am
Evening Family Worship	6:00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	
Adult/Teen Bible Study	6:30 pm
KBay Kids Clubs	6:30 pm
Discipleship classes	6:30 pm
<b>All services in person and online</b>	

**KBC weekly broadcast on OLELO channel 55 Saturday @7:30 p.m. & Monday @ 12:00 p.m.**

## Ko'olau Baptist Academy



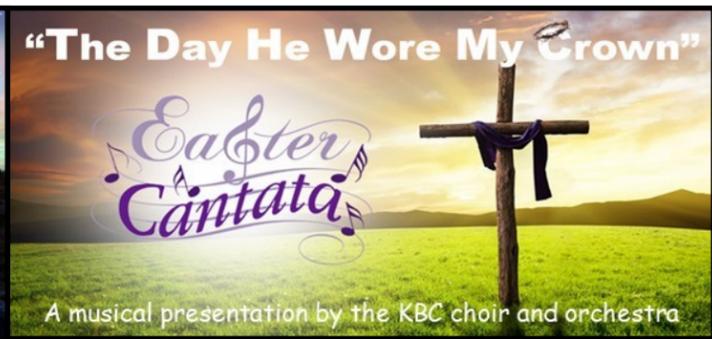
Praise the Lord as he continues to bless our school ministry this year. Our students have continued to learn and grow, and we are so thankful that we have seen academic growth as well as numerical growth this year. It has been a great year for our students. Recently, we have been able to take our students on field trips and return to pre-COVID activities. We were so blessed to be able to participate in the AACCS Music Festival this past week. Our junior high and high school choir students joined other teenagers from sister schools to praise God in beautiful songs. Our school year is rapidly approaching its end, and there are many exciting events upcoming. Our spring play entitled "Papa was a Preacher" will be performed by our drama team on April 29-30 at 7:00 P.M. Free tickets will be available in the school office and after church services. Our annual retreat at Kualoa Beach Park is back in full swing this year. This is a great time of fun for the junior high and high school students as they conclude the school year. If you are available to help with our retreat during May 16-18, please see Pastor Rob Mirasol or Principal Brian Valladares. And, of course, our class of 2022 is eagerly awaiting their graduation ceremony on May 21 at 2:00 p.m. This time of the year is very busy for our KBA staff. We covet your prayers for the staff and students as we conclude this school year, and we thank you for all of your support.

Re-enrollment is up and applications are being received daily for the 2022-2023 school year. Classes are filling up, and we are excited to see what God will do in the upcoming school year and would love to have your children join us. We try to keep our tuition affordable for all who would want a distinctively Christian education for their children. Check out our website



[academy.koolaubc.org](http://academy.koolaubc.org)  
or scan the QR code to see if KBA would be a good fit for your family.





9:30 a.m. Sunday school 10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 Easter Musical "The Day He Wore My Crown" presented by the KBC Choir & Orchestra  
 Huge Easter Egg Hunt following the service  
 6:00 p.m. Family Night

**LADIES**  
 Prayer & Bible Study  
 April 19th @ 7:00 p.m.



"Papa Was a Preacher"  
 based on a book by Agnes Porter

A Ko'olau Baptist Academy Drama Production  
 April 29th-30th @ 7:00 p.m.  
 Call the school office for questions and to reserve your free ticket 808-233-2900

**FBI**  
 (Faith Bible Institute) Summer Elective Course  
**"Angels"**  
 June 13-July 4, 2022  
 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 See Mr. Green for details

**Hallelujah for 57 years!**

*If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.*  
 1 Timothy 4:6

God has provided abundantly and will continue to work in the hearts and lives of people. For those passing through or for the many who continue their life's journey at Ko'olau Baptist Church, we look forward to the many blessings God will shower on KBC for another 100 years or until the Lord returns. We thank God for His faithful servants, Michael Hall, Shelley Alford, and Diana Oliveras. Lord's work is an inspiration to many, and we are honored to recognize their ministry at KBC.

A great picnic meal was prepared and feasted upon. Many Keiki eagerly awaited their turn at the "Bouncy House" and face painting booth. And the adults, as well as the children, enjoyed the cotton candy and shave ice!

What a blast! We congratulate the teams in the "Horseshoe Pitching" contest with first place honors going to Alfred Balocan and Derek Tippy, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers were Janett Kaha'ulelio and Dana Woodfin. The young adults and teens had so much fun playing volleyball as well.

It was a day of festivities, yet we remember the goodness of God during the 57 years of history at KBC. God has used many people to surrender to full-time ministry whether in preaching or mission work. We can also thank each individual for making a difference in the hearts and lives of others. As we think on the many individuals whose names are penned in the Holy Scriptures, we also think of those whose lives were changed here at Ko'olau Baptist Church.



Get your tickets today

**MY Fair LADY** Ladies Spring Banquet

May 7, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.  
 Tickets \$10.00 each  
 Ladies 12 years and up

Purchase your ticket before and after every church service, in the KBC office or reserve them online at [koolaubc.org](http://koolaubc.org)




**May 1st is Lei Day**

Join us as we celebrate the beauty and fragrance of Hawaii. Wear your favorite aloha wear and a lei. There will be a huge KBC group picture following the morning service and family pictures for all who would like one.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Connecting Points**

We have a class for every age at KBC, and it is a blessing to children and adults alike. In Sunday school we study God's Word in a discussion like atmosphere that greatly enhances our learning. In Sunday school we meet people in our age category with similar interests, so we can make good friends to enjoy and care for. In Sunday school we organize many of our church outreach and ministry events. If you are not already connected to a class consider getting connected. It will greatly enhance your spiritual journey.



**Thank God FOR MOM**

**Mother's Day May 8th**

Mark your calendar and join us as we honor all of our Mothers. Invite every mom you know as we celebrate the vital role moms have, now more than ever before!

**3 To Thrive!**

The last 20 years has brought many changes in Christianity in America. Some of the changes have been fantastic, bringing great blessings to God's work. Some changes, however, have not delivered as promised. In fact, some of the changes give every appearance of being a detriment to the cause of Christ. One of the changes has been in the number of churches that have ceased to have multiple services each week. Sadly, many of our Baptist churches have stopped having Sunday night service and Wednesday night prayer meeting and Bible study. We know these are busy times and, fewer things scheduled offers the promise of giving more time for the family. But did it deliver? We think not. First, going to church is already a family time. Second, most often the extra time just meant crashing on the sofa disengaged from the family. Third, the statistics tell a different story. We know the divorce rate difference between a family that attends church once a month compared to the family that attends once a week, is almost the same. But for the family that attends church more than once a month the odds of the family remaining intact significantly increases to the 90% plus range. It just seems that we do better when we get more than one touch a week with preaching and fellowshiping with fellow believers. As we compare the state of our nation 20 years ago, it is safe to say that we were better off when we attended church more often.

Ko'olau Baptist Church members and leaders are committed to a ministry that is sold out to Christ. We start Sunday mornings with Sunday school classes for every age. This Bible study time is in a small group format. It is an opportunity to learn God's Word in an informal setting as well as to make new friends and get better acquainted with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Sunday morning service immediately follows Sunday school. This service is a great time to celebrate what God has done through the previous week and what He will do in the coming week. We invite our Christian friends (not connected to a local church) to join us for worship to see if God might be leading them to join the KBC ohana. We invite our friends who have not yet accepted Christ to come and hear how they can come to know the Lord as their personal Savior. On Sunday mornings, we have children's churches for every age up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The Sunday night service is Family Night. The whole family is in one service. We try to do things that will be of interest to every member of the family. It is also a great time to invite friends who might be obligated on Sunday mornings. Then on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. we meet for Bible study. We have alternating programs for teens and children, but sometimes we meet together, as we did a few weeks ago, when a missionary visited us. Wednesday night service is also a time given to prayer. We read prayer letters from missionaries, and we review our prayer list. Many times we will break up into groups to pray for one another.

Dr. Lee Robertson had many famous sayings, one of which is "Three to Thrive!" He was talking about the blessings of attending church on Sunday mornings, Sunday nights, and Wednesday nights. We can thrive personally and in our family if we will give God more of our time. Our nation will be blessed as we as collectively give God more of our time. What about you? Have you been doing "Three to Thrive?" If not, will you pray about it? Will you commit?

- Upcoming EVENTS**
- April 17  
Easter Sunday Choir musical & Easter egg Hunt
  - April 19  
Ladies Prayer & Bible Study
  - April 22  
IMPACT Bible Study
  - April 29-30  
KBA Drama Play "Papa Was a Preacher"
  - May 1  
Lei Day
  - May 7  
"My Fair Lady" Ladies Banquet
  - May 8  
Mother's Day
  - May 12  
Kindergarten Graduation
  - May 21  
KBA Graduation
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