




**THE BEAUTIFUL
EMPTY**





1 CORINTHIANS 15:14 NIV

¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.






The Resurrection
story starts with
DISAPPOINTMENT.



JOHN 20:1-9 NLT

¹Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ²She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”







JOHN 20:1-9 NLT


³Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. ⁴They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

⁵He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. ⁸Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—⁹for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.






Because the tomb
is EMPTY, your life
can be FULL.





JOHN 10:10 NIV

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.





The empty tomb is
full of GUARANTEES.

The image features a light beige background with decorative, stylized leaf-like patterns in the corners. The central text is a religious statement. The words "TEAR" and "WIPED" are emphasized with double underlines.


Because the tomb is empty every
TEAR can be WIPED away.



JOHN 20:11-15 NLT

¹⁰She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

¹¹Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. ¹²She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³“Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her.




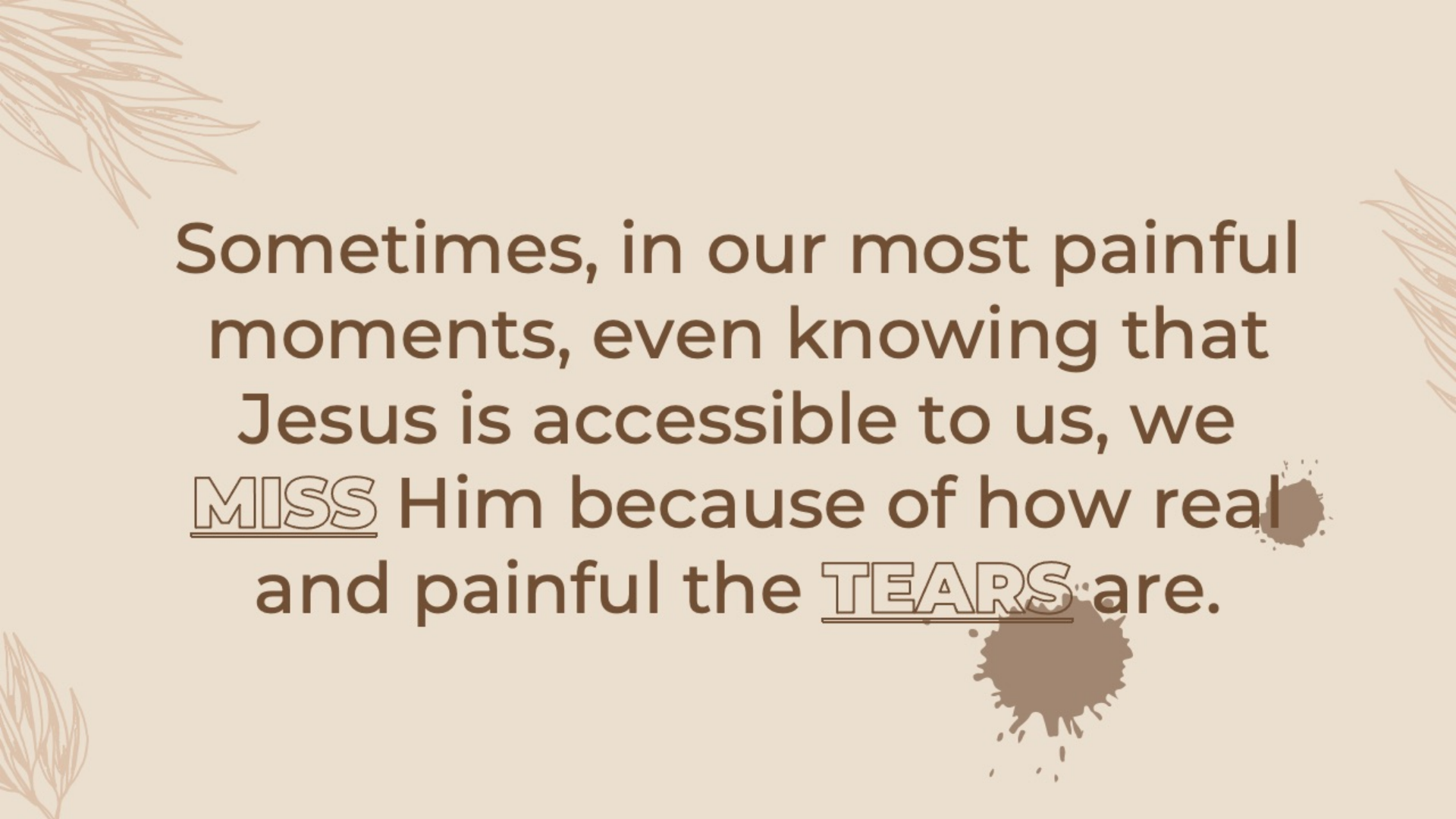


JOHN 20:11-15 NLT

“Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”

¹⁴She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. ¹⁵“Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?”






Sometimes, in our most painful moments, even knowing that Jesus is accessible to us, we MISS Him because of how real and painful the TEARS are.



JOHN 20:16 NLT

¹⁶ “Mary!” Jesus said.


She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!”
(which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).





PSALM 34:18 NLT

**¹⁸ The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;
he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.**




Because the tomb is
empty every FEAR
can be OVERCOME.





JOHN 20:19-21A NLT

¹⁹That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁰As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹Again he said, “Peace be with you.”






I wonder how many of us live behind LOCKED doors because we are not quite sure if Jesus will come through on every PROMISE that He has made.



GENESIS 26:24B NLT

Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you.



Because the tomb is
empty every DOUBT
can be RELIEVED.






JOHN 20:24-28 NLT

²⁴One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. ²⁵They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”


But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”





JOHN 20:24-28 NLT

²⁶Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”



²⁸“My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.



Jesus isn't threatened by Thomas's DOUBT, He extends an INVITATION.



What does this really mean for me?


The background is a light beige color with decorative, stylized leaf-like patterns in the corners. The text is centered and reads: "In this story found in John 20 there is a lot of LOOKING, searching, and RUNNING." The words "LOOKING" and "RUNNING" are in a bold, outlined font and are underlined.

In this story found in John 20
there is a lot of LOOKING,
searching, and RUNNING.



2 CORINTHIANS 5:15 NLT

¹⁵He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.



The power of the
Resurrection story is in
something they didn't
FIND. The tomb was
beautifully EMPTY and
it still is.

