Defeating the Tomb

**Read:** Matthew 28:1-7

**Text:** John 2:19 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this

temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

**Introduction:** How could a dead man raise a dead man? How could a dead man raise himself? When you read and understand our text you are left with the conclusion that Jesus was no mere man. He predicted that once He was murdered He would raise Himself from the dead. If you or I want a healing or other miracle from God we will pray. If It doesn’t happen we will ask others to pray with us. We may even fast and pray. When one of us is sick we will agree in prayer for his heal-ing. We may recite scripture as we pray. When Jesus was laid in the tomb there was no group of interceding Christians who were praying for His healing or resurrection. He defeated the tomb by raising Him-self from the dead; thus proving that He was God.

**I. Defeating the tomb completed a promise from God.** Our text conveyed this promise. The 8th verse reminds us that He was fulfilling His own promise. When God makes a promise you and I can take it to the bank. Ask Abraham and Sarah and they will tell you that a promise made by God when they were barely out of their teens can be relied on even when you are nearly 100 years old. There is not an enemy that you cannot defeat when you are in agreement with God.

**II. Defeating the tomb involved a divine presence.** Our scripture de-scribes the angel of the Lord who came all the way from heaven in response to the promise of God. His appearance was so frightening that he caused the soldiers to go into shock.

**III. Defeating the tomb was an earth shaking experience.** The sec-ond verse tells us of a great earthquake. Can I say that; when you and I experience the resurrected Christ in our lives it will shake you up and it certainly will shake up the world that you live in. A couple of weeks ago a man who had been against God and anything related to God prayed to receive Christ as his savior. He was in the hospital and a pastor (who he hated) at the request of his wife went to visit him and shared the Gospel. He heard and received the message. A friend of his was asking how he was doing and, upon learning of his salvation, res-ponded with: “Are we talking about the same man?” His entire world has changed.

**IV. Defeating the tomb required some rock & roll.** This is the first mention of Rock & Roll ever. “…the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.” This stone required several strong men and some levers and wedges to move. But the Rock made it roll; and rolled it uphill.

Is there a rock in your life that is blocking you from the freedom that Christ offers? Do you have issues or situations that are beyond your control? Is there a victory that you need but there is no possible way for it to happen?

Paul introduces the Rock in I Corinthians 10 when He says: “…they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.” Ask the rock to roll in your life.

**Conclude:** When I was preparing this message I began to think about the definition of a tomb. It is a place of death. It is the place of the most extreme loss that a person can ever experience. It is a place of hopelessness and helplessness. Nobody enjoys a funeral and nobody wants to watch a loved one buried.

If I were to tell you that you can defeat the tomb, would you be interested? The tomb could not hold Jesus and the tomb cannot hold anyone who trusts in Him as their savior.