

Truth: The Grave is Empty!

John 20

6 of 14

In August 1957 four climbers—two Italians and two Germans—were climbing the 6,000 foot near-vertical North Face in the Swiss Alps. The two German climbers disappeared and were never heard from again. The two Italian climbers, exhausted and dying, were stuck on two narrow ledges a thousand feet below the summit. The Swiss Alpine Club forbade rescue attempts in this area (it was just too dangerous), but a small group of Swiss climbers decided to launch a private rescue effort to save the Italians. So they carefully lowered a climber named Alfred Hellepart down the 6,000 foot North Face. They suspended Hellepart on a cable a fraction of an inch thick as they lowered him into the abyss.

Here's how Hellepart described the rescue in his own words:

As I was lowered down the summit ... my comrades on top grew further and further distant, until they disappeared from sight. At this moment I felt an indescribable aloneness. Then for the first time I peered down the abyss of the North Face of the Eiger. The terror of the sight robbed me of breath. ...The brooding blackness of the Face, falling away in almost endless expanse beneath me, made me look with awful longing to the thin cable disappearing about me in the mist. I was a tiny human being dangling in space between heaven and hell. The sole relief from terror was ...my mission to save the climber below.



northeast daily reading

July 10, 2011

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That is the heart of the Gospel story. We were trapped, but in the person and presence of Jesus, God lowered himself into the abyss of our sin and suffering. In Jesus God became "a tiny human being dangling between heaven and hell." He did it to save the people trapped below—you and me. Thus, the gospel is much more radical than just another religion telling us how to be good in our own power. It tells us the story of God's risky, costly, sacrificial rescue effort on our behalf. [James R. Edwards, *Is Jesus the Only Savior* (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005), pp. 160-161]

Our Daily Bible Reading for this week will consist of scriptures that remind us of our need for Jesus.

- DAY ONE – Leviticus 16:3-10
- DAY TWO – Isaiah 53:1-10
- DAY THREE – John 10:1-11
- DAY FOUR – Romans 5:6-11
- DAY FIVE – Ephesians 2:1-10

Memory Verse:

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." -- Jesus (John 10:11)

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