

King's Way Church
Message for Apr 8, 2007
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EASTER: HOW DO YOU GET THERE?
Mark 16:1-8

A.B. Simpson said that *Easter is New Year's Day of the soul*. It's a day of new beginnings, of new life, of starting over. Easter is important because on this day Jesus rose from the dead. This is the belief that Christian church is built upon: the resurrection of Christ. Without the resurrection there would be no Christian faith. Seeing his resurrection firsthand changed his followers' perspective on life and death and everything in between. Easter Sunday (and what it stands for--the resurrection of Jesus) confirms three important truths about life. Let's look at each one, and consider how they affect our lives today. First, because of the resurrection, we know...

JESUS IS WHO HE SAID HE WAS.

Jesus claimed to be God, and he proved it. Jesus made claims about himself that Buddha, Confucius, or Mohammed never made about themselves. Jesus claimed to be God. He claimed that he had always existed, that he would always exist, that all creation belonged to him, and that someday he would rule the world. Repeatedly Jesus claimed to be God, and it drove his enemies crazy.

John 5:18 says, *For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.* (John 5:18)

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

We must abandon the notion that "all religions lead to the same place" and "it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere." Jesus said specifically, *"I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved."* (John 10:9) Is Jesus really the Son of God? Well, he has power over death, so I guess that means he is everything he claimed to be. Another important truth that Easter confirms is...

NO SITUATION IS BEYOND GOD'S POWER.

On the surface, it appears that the death of Jesus initiated the death of his dream. It appears that God lost and the devil won. Jesus died the worst possible death a man can die. He was ridiculed, mocked, spat upon, beaten, stripped and hung on a cross--the ultimate humiliation for a Jew. Galatians 3:13

Yet, God had a plan. The death of Jesus would pay for the sins of the world. Through his death, all of creation would be reconciled to God. Col. 1:19-20 Through his death, the power of death would be defeated once and for all. And through his resurrection, he would be shown to be Lord of all. [1 Corinthians 15]

Just as God brought his Son back from the dead, he can cause a resurrection in your life, as well. What has died? What dreams, what hopes, what relationship, what vision? What is happening in your world that appears to be beyond the hand of God? (Romans 8:11; Ephesians 3:20-21; Philippians 4:13) No situation is beyond God's power to save; the resurrection proves it. Another important truth that Easter confirms is...

GOD'S FORGIVENESS IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE.

As the women stepped into the empty tomb that Sunday morning, they were met by an angel dressed in a white robe. He told them that Jesus had been risen from the dead. He said, (v. 7) *Go tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee..."* Have you ever wondered why the angel mentioned Peter specifically? It was so there wouldn't be any doubt in anyone's mind that God intended to fully restore this fallen disciple. (Matthew 10:33)

I'm sure Peter believed that he was washed up as a follower of Christ. God wanted to make it clear to them, and he wants to make it clear to you now: **His forgiveness is available to everyone--even you.** Here's the part about the death of Jesus that no one really understood at the time, but it became increasingly obvious over the years. When Jesus died on the cross, all the sins of the world

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were placed on his shoulders. Every sin ever committed--sins of the past, sins of the present, sins of the future--were placed upon Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

There's nothing left for you to pay. There's nothing left for you to do...*except receive his forgiveness*. The resurrection proves that he has the power to forgive your sins. *“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.”* (1 John 1:9) That's why the angel said, *“Tell his disciples and Peter.”*

CONCLUSION

Easter is the day of new beginnings. It can be a new beginning for you today, as well. This day can be the day when your faith is transformed from what you've merely heard to what you've experienced for yourself. How do you get there? One step in the process is to come and see for yourself. Another way to get there is through the study of Scripture where you will meet Jesus. And you also get there by waiting on God to fill you with the Holy Spirit. You can't live the Christian life on your own; you need God's power at work in you. Receive it today -- and let this be a day of new beginnings.

“Our vision is to make a change in our community by being a *life-giving* church that is *true* to the Bible and *relevant* today by helping You find *Your way!*”

-King's Way Church

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