



Easter

APRIL 9
2023

INTRODUCTION

Happy Easter! He is risen! Pastor John teaches us how Jesus' resurrection brought death to death and changes the formula for us today. While the presence and pain of death still exists, as believers in Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, we have peace and confidence knowing death is no longer the enemy and no longer our end.

DISCUSSION

1. How was Easter? Did it include attending church? Time with family? Some rest or a lack thereof? Were there any traditions or changes in your weekend? What emotions did you feel? Take some time to reflect and share about your holiday experience.
2. **Revisit and read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.** Death is still painful and difficult. But because of Jesus' resurrection, we no longer grieve or fear death as we did before knowing it isn't our end. How does the power of this message shift your perspective of death for others and for you personally?
3. **Revisit and read 1 Corinthians 15:54-55.** Pastor John encourages us saying we can find peace and confidence in this life now because the power of death is gone. What might you feel the freedom to pursue, let go of, or change because death is no longer a fear in your everyday life? In what way might you still wrestle in that truth?
4. The Easter holiday can be both life giving and demanding for most of us. Revisit your answers from the first question; as you navigated the holiday, how did it reinforce or pull you away from the Easter story? How close and "real" does Jesus' resurrection story feel in your day-to-day life right now?

APPLICATION

After a meaningful Easter experience - **when we learn Jesus' resurrection changes everything** - it can be disorienting or tempting to enter back into a world that can feel the same as it did before. As you navigate this week, find ways to be reminded that our hope, trajectory, priorities, even our death - everything is different on the other side of the resurrection. Here are a few ways you could start:

1. Write down a meaningful passage of Scripture from the resurrection story and place it somewhere you'll regularly encounter it.
2. Continue reflecting, or even journaling, about what death means for you now and how you feel about it. Don't be surprised to find some "swirling" in your mind and heart over the coming weeks.
3. Make a list, whether abstract or concrete, about how you want to live your life knowing you're safe, secure, and free thanks to Jesus' resurrection. Take one of those items to develop with a few actionable steps, continued reflection, and prayer. Remember, God will help and meet you in your trust and obedience to Him.