

## The Gospel & the Kingdom

### EASTER SUNDAY | April 12, 2020



Scripture references: John 11:17–35 and John 20

- Easter is a celebration of what Christ has done not a demonstration of what the church can do.
- Jesus asks Martha – Do you believe this? Do you believe that I am the resurrection?

Because Jesus has risen...

1. Outcasts are brought near and then sent out.
  - a. Mary had a “checkered” past – like most of us.
  - b. We were all condemned, but Jesus brought resurrection and life.
2. We can have eternal life today.
  - a. We fail to grasp the resurrection of Jesus if we don’t see ALL of life as spiritual.
  - b. The resurrection wasn’t an isolated event. The community gathered at the tomb were participants. We are ALL participants.
3. Tears over death lose their sting in Christ’s triumph over death.
  - a. Jesus cries with Mary. He hurts with her and for her.
  - b. But Jesus would show that he had master over death. If he hadn’t used the name “Lazarus,” all the tombs would’ve opened!
  - c. Our fate should’ve been death – no life beyond the grave. Yet, our hope is that through Jesus who went to the tomb before us, there’s a way through and a way out into a new, redemptive world that God is recreating.

The Gospel isn’t GOOD NEWS if Jesus didn’t come out of the tomb. There is no Gospel if Jesus didn’t rise from the dead. The Gospel isn’t about bad people becoming good. It’s about spiritually dead people becoming ALIVE!

Most of us don’t need to be convinced the resurrection happened. But we need to ask ourselves if the resurrection has changed us.