

Easter: Study Questions

[Acts 2:22-39](#)

In order to redeem the broken, physical world we live in, Jesus came for us, fully man while remaining fully God. He first identified with us in our humanity so that we can then identify with Him as He sits on the throne of Heaven. As our Redeemer and King, Jesus reigns from Heaven and rules in our hearts.

Application

1. Jesus lives and reigns forever on the throne of Heaven and earth, interceding for us. He covers our souls, and He understands what we need because He identifies with us. Where in your life do you need to truly believe that Jesus understands and is interceding for you? What circumstances make it hard for you to believe this?
2. Jesus' rule is evident in our hearts, in the power He gives us to care for people in a dark world, in our sacrificial community of believers, and in the enduring power of the Church. Which of these four ways that Jesus rules is the easiest for you to see in your own life? Which of these is hardest for you to see?
3. The condition of our souls is the most important issue we face on this earth. What tools does God give us in fighting for our faith and fighting for the faith of others? From Matt's teaching, how can you better talk to non-believers about your faith?

Key Points

- The Holy Spirit guides us in a lifestyle of repentance.
- Although we may feel like we are being humble when we say that God cannot cover our sin or that we are too far gone for Him to help us, this is actually a prideful and arrogant attitude. If we believe that His sacrifice is not enough, then we are believing that we are more powerful than the God of the universe.
- We are called to repent and be baptized; this means we abandon our identity and identify through our life with Jesus' life and resurrection.
- When we ask questions like, "Why is this happening?" or "How can God let this evil happen?" we can be reminded that we are not yet experiencing the fullness of Jesus' rule. It was *us* who corrupted the world in the perfect garden that God had created for us in Genesis. God is not weak or busy, but patient and kind before the opportunity for repentance has passed ([2 Peter 3:8-10](#)).
- Matt referenced an illustration from the book [Union With Christ by Rankin Wilbourne](#) of the theological concept of the "already but not yet": "Today it might look like just a crack of light under the door. But the New Testament writers were confident because they knew the light had dawned ([Romans 13:12](#)) and that one day the door will open, and the light, the Sun of Glory, will flood the whole room."