

DIGGING DEEPER



The Story of Easter: From Death to Resurrection

Apr 5, 2026

This powerful exploration of the Easter story takes us beyond the familiar narrative to experience the raw emotion and eternal significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. We journey from the darkness of Friday's crucifixion through Saturday's silence to Sunday's glorious resurrection, discovering how this ancient event continues to transform lives today. The message beautifully weaves together the theological depth with the human experience, reminding us that Mary stood at the cross watching her son die, that disciples hid in fear behind locked doors, and that outsiders like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus stepped forward when others stepped back. We're challenged to see that the resurrection wasn't merely a historical event but an ongoing invitation to experience hope in eternity and transformation in our present circumstances. Romans 5 and 1 Peter 1 anchor us in the truth that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us, offering reconciliation and a priceless inheritance. The most compelling insight is that Jesus still calls people by name today, just as He called Mary in the garden. Whether we need forgiveness, hope, or a fresh start, the empty tomb declares that Sunday is here and Jesus is alive, ready to meet us exactly where we are.

1. How does understanding that Jesus took upon himself the punishment we earned change the way you view your own mistakes and failures?

2. Mary Magdalene was the first to see the risen Jesus, not the disciples or religious leaders. What does this tell us about how Jesus prioritizes a person's heart over their social status?

3. The sermon mentions that familiar stories can lose their punch because we know the ending. How can we recapture the emotional weight and wonder of the Easter story in our daily lives?

4. The two men who buried Jesus were hesitant, outside followers who stepped up when the core disciples were absent. What does this say about God's use of those who are unsure or on the margins?

5. Pastor Daniel states that if Jesus was not raised from the dead, everything we believe falls apart and church would be pointless. How does the reality of the resurrection practically impact your everyday decisions?

6. The disciples were meeting behind locked doors out of fear before Jesus appeared to them. What fears or locked doors in your own life need an encounter with the risen Jesus?

7. The sermon emphasizes that the resurrection is not just transactional but relational. How have you experienced your relationship with Jesus as more than just a one-time decision?

8. Romans 5 says God showed his great love by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. How does knowing Jesus died for you before you deserved it affect how you extend grace to others?

9. The message describes Friday as loss and pain, Saturday as silence and waiting, and Sunday as resurrection and hope. Which day best describes where you are spiritually right now, and why?

10. Jesus called Mary by name in the garden after his resurrection. In what ways have you experienced Jesus calling you personally by name in your own life journey?

Remember...

"The resurrection means that if Jesus can handle death, He can handle whatever you brought with you today."