

# Easter – 4/17/22

Pastor Rick: “Things are not always as they appear!”

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Today we’re talking about the correlation between life and God, and how that relates to Easter.

We think that if life is good, then God is good. And when life isn’t good, we tend to view God as not good.

There are people who have been deeply disappointed by life.

For some, you gave God a chance, or a few chances. He didn’t come through, so you never gave him serious consideration again.

Thief on the Cross

*Luke 23:32–34*

*Luke 23:35*

*Luke 23:36–39*

What the one criminal was saying was, “You aren’t the Christ. You and can’t save us.” He thought that as life went...so goes God!

Where was God? *Right next to you!*

Things are not as they always appear.

The other criminal saw things maybe for the first time a little bit differently. “Maybe things are not as they appear.”

*Luke 23:40–43*

Have you, perhaps because of life, confused life with God? Have you drawn conclusions about God because of what you have experienced?

God is not what you have experienced. God can be trusted in spite of your experience. God is not life; God sent Jesus to bring you life!

*John 3:16–17*

Because of the empty tomb, Jesus defeated our greatest enemies—sin and death!

Things are not as they always appear!

In Jesus, you find that which you do not find in life-- grace, mercy, love, and true life!

*Matthew 16:25-26*

Have you chosen the way of Jesus?

**No DISCUSSION QUESTIONS this week**