

Easter Sunday

Why Easter Brings Hope in 2025

1. Today: Why Easter is still relevant... Why Easter brings hope... Look back at the first Easter...
2. People didn't really follow Jesus because of His *teachings*. They followed Him because of who they *believed He was*.

"Outrageous" claims Jesus made about Himself	
The Son of God (Matthew 26:63-64)	The Messiah (John 4:26)
One who forgives sin (Mark 2:10)	The Healer (Luke 18:42)
The Bread of Life (John 6:35)	The Great "I Am" (John 8:58)
<i>[Jesus] "...I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through Me."</i> John 14:6 (NLT)	

3. **The Bread of Life Debacle:** Some people were offended by Jesus' claims and hit "Unfollow".

"Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because He had said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They said, 'Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know His father and mother. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?" John 6:41-42 (NLT)

"At this point many of His disciples turned away and deserted Him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, 'Are you also going to leave?' Simon Peter replied, 'Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know You are the Holy One of God.'" John 6:66-69 (NLT)

4. When Jesus died, they thought, **"We must have just been wrong about Jesus."**
5. And then something happened: Life... Power... Resurrection... **HOPE!!!**

Read John 20 (NLT)

6. Who do you believe Jesus is?

[Jesus] "Who do people say the Son of Man is?... Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:13-15 (NIV)

3 Options

Liar: A deceitful person who lived 2,000+ years ago who faked miracles and somehow started a worldwide movement.

Lunatic: A sincere but mentally unstable person who believed he was God's son and accomplished the same as above.

Lord: Jesus was who He claimed to be - God's Son - with the authority to perform miracles and give Himself as a substitute sacrifice for our sins.

7. Question: “What does God want me to do with my life?”

Answer: Love and trust Jesus

Example: Poisonous Snake and Antivenom

- It can't help you if it's not in you.
- Jesus can't help you if He's not in you.

**God doesn't want you to just believe the right things
about Jesus.
He wants you to put your trust
in Jesus.**

- 1) Ask God for help.

“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

1 John 1:9 (NLT)

- 2) Believe in Jesus. Put your faith and trust in Him.

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:9 (NLT)

- 3) Commit to follow Jesus with your whole life.

“...If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me.”

Luke 9:23 (NLT)