

## Food for Thought for the Week of Easter

This week's message invited us to reflect on how we respond to Jesus, and what the resurrection really means for us. Take a moment to sit with each of these prompts in prayer and reflection.

**Four Responses** Jesus drew out very different responses from people in the days before and after the resurrection. We still see those same responses today.

- Which of the four responses to Jesus (serve me, reshape Him, holiday guest, or all in) most reflects where your heart has been recently?
- Have you ever expected Jesus to act in a certain way and been disappointed or confused when He didn't?

**What the Resurrection Means** The resurrection isn't just a belief, it's a reversal of death and the foundation of our faith.

- What's one part of your life that feels like it needs resurrection right now?
- How would your outlook change this week if you lived as if Jesus is *truly* alive and ruling?

**The Evidence and the Invitation** We were reminded that the resurrection is not blind faith, it's grounded in history, prophecy, and eyewitnesses. But more than that, it's an invitation.

- What's holding you back from going all in?
- Who in your life needs to hear that the resurrection isn't just good news, it's true news?

**Final Reflection** *"What will you do because He rose?"*

# **The Choice at Easter**

## *What Will You Do with a Risen King?*

### *(Answer Key)*

## **1. The Four Responses to Jesus**

1. What can Jesus do for me? (Mark 11:1–11, 15:6–15)
  - Faith built on **convenience** crumbles when life gets hard
2. I know better than God (Mark 11:27-12:12)
  - A god made in your **image** can't save you
3. That was a nice message, see you next year
  - **Holiday** faith won't carry you through everyday life
4. Jesus, I'm all in (Luke 24:50-53)
  - Resurrection leads to **transformation**

## **2. What the Resurrection Is / Isn't**

It's NOT:

- Just "**life** after death"
- Revivification like **Lazarus**
- Reincarnation or **purgatory**

It IS:

1. A **renewal** of the physical body (2 Cor. 5:8)
2. Life after a period of being **dead**
3. A complete **reversal** of death

## **3. Five Reasons to Trust the Resurrection**

1. It was **Predicted** and then **Recorded** (Is. 53:8-12, 1 Cor. 15)
2. Jesus really **died** (Jn. 19:34-35)
3. The tomb was **empty** (Is 53:9, Mt. 27:57-60)
4. He was **seen** by many (1 Cor. 15:6, Lk. 24:36-43)
5. Lives were **changed** (Js. 1:1, Jude 1, Acts 2; 9)

## **4. Five Things the Resurrection Accomplishes**

1. **We Are Forgiven** – The resurrection is the **proof** that the cross worked (Is. 53:5, Jn 19:30)
2. **We Are Sanctified** – Resurrection power is at work in us **now** (Rom. 6:4)
3. **We Are Justified** – God's justice has been **satisfied** (Rom. 4:25)
4. **We Have Hope** – We know this world is not the **end** (1 Pet. 1:3)
5. **We Have Purpose** – Our labor in the Lord is not **meaningless** (1 Cor. 15:58)