

Easter at LifeGate You're Still Seated on Your Throne

Intro: Welcome to Easter at LifeGate! The day Jesus beat death is STILL the greatest day in history. His story is STILL the greatest story ever told because it becomes our story. Like the song says, His Word is Greater, His Power is Stronger Still, His Name is Higher Still, The Cross Still Stands, The Blood Still flows, and He is Still seated on His Throne!

Revelation 5:13 (NLT)

And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: "Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever."

He is seated is still seated on the throne! What does this mean for us?

He is Still in Charge.

Ephesians 1:19-21 (Message)

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe in him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead. God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything.

Ex. Ever been somewhere and didn't know who was in charge? When I was a student pastor, this would happen all of the time when we took the group out because you couldn't see me. People get worried when no one is in charge. It causes us to take control or trust the wrong authority.

- Even Satan and all the powers of darkness know this.
- This is why he tries to convince us that He's not in charge. He works through circumstances to deceive us, to trick us into doubting God, or believing that it's over, there's no way through, or that God isn't powerful.
- It can bring peace and joy, freedom, and purpose when the right One is in charge.

Jesus doesn't just want to be the King of the Universe. He wants to be the King of our hearts.

You Are Still His Plan.

Ephesians 1:4-6

Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

- You are wanted, you were planned by God.

- You were not an incident or an accident. God doesn't make mistakes or have "oops" You were made in His image for a beautiful purpose.
- You don't have to accept the lies of the enemy, of this world, or hurtful words that have been spoken to you.
- Through relationship with God and others in the family of God, we can experience healing and freedom.

It has always been part of His plan to rescue us from the power of sin and death.

"God is still on His throne, we're still on His 'footstool,' and there's only a knee's distance between!" Jim Elliot

He is Still the Way.

Ephesians 1:7-8, 12

Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! ¹² It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for...

- Jesus isn't "a" way, and He doesn't do things halfway. He is still the ONLY way.

Way to Salvation:

- He paid for our salvation with His blood. He is our way out of sin and our way into Heaven.
- You and I can't live free of sin, fear, and anxiety in our own power. Freedom doesn't come from striving but surrendering to a better way. Jesus!
- We were all headed the wrong way until Jesus became the way...to Freedom, forgiveness, and friendship with God.

Way to Purpose:

- This power brings significance, meaning, and value to my existence. Thriving instead of surviving. If this didn't happen, nothing else matters. Because it happened, everything matters.
- Instead of living life for myself and being unfulfilled, He gives me a greater purpose that fulfills me.

In every person's heart and life, there's a throne. Who is sitting on the throne in your heart today? Who's calling the shots? Whoever sits on the throne has all the power.

Ephesians 3:17,19b (NLT)

¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Will you trust Him? Will you trust Him again?