

Title: Easter Matters

Text: *“Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”* (Mark 16:6)

Target: The tomb that is empty didn't just change history; it can change you.

I. Easter Matters because it is VALIDATION

- A. Teachings were True:** *“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain...”* (1 Cor. 15:14, 17-19)
- B. Identity was Known:** *“Declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead,”* (Romans 1:4)
- C. His Claims weren't Empty:** *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,”* (John 11:25-26)
- D. His Mission was Freedom:** *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me... to proclaim good news to the poor... liberty to the captives,”* (Isaiah 61:1)

II. Easter Matters because it is VINDICATION

- A. Curse is Broken:** *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us,”* (Galatians 3:13)
- B. Sins are Forgiven:** *“Through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,”* (Acts 13:38-39)
- C. Righteousness Imputed:** *“He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”* (Romans 4:25)
- D. Freedom is Available:** *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* (John 8:36)

III. Easter Matters because it is VERIFICATION

- A. Death is Defeated:** *“Death is swallowed up in victory.”* (1 Cor. 15:54-57)
- B. Pain has Purpose:** *“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.”* (2 Cor. 4:16-17)
- C. Satan is Conquered:** *“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame,”* (Colossians 2:14-15)
- D. Life has Meaning:** *“Born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”* (1 Peter 1:3-4)
- E. Heaven is Coming:** *“In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”* (John 14:2)

Takeaway: We are not waiting on a miracle; we are invited into one that has already happened.