
Follow Me: The Gospel of Matthew

Victory Life Church

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020 — Part 7, “He is Risen”

Easter Transforms Our Lives

Matthew 28:1-10 (ESV)

Easter transforms the way we think about life. It means that there is One who has passed through death, and come out the other side in a new kind of life that death can never touch. This One, Jesus, took sin and sickness and shame into death and with his death, our sin, sickness, and shame died as well.

But death does not have the final word. Jesus, the innocent one, died on behalf of the guilty, and death could not keep him. Jesus defeated death and with it, defeated our sin and shame. And when we believe this story and put our trust in this Jesus, we are changed. We are taught that this risen Jesus transforms the very center of us, our very heart, and gives us a new heart, we receive the forgiveness of our sins, and are invited into new relationship with God, and new life in this world.

And the phrase that defines this new world, this new life, is “Do not be afraid.” Because Jesus defeated death, and sin and death do not have the final say, we can trust Jesus to take care of us. We can trust that Jesus is in charge and that his love for us is trustworthy, even when we are confused and afraid.

Easter Transforms Our Purpose

Matthew 28:16-20 (ESV)

The resurrection also transforms the way we think about our purpose in life. Jesus declares that all authority in heaven and earth is his. He is in charge of the world, and if he is in charge as Lord, then I am called to live under his reign. I am called to be his disciple, his apprentice, in learning how to live in the kingdom of heaven under his rule. And a crucial part of following him is teaching others how to live in the kingdom of heaven alongside Jesus. A critical part of meaning and purpose in the life of disciples is making more disciples.

All along the way, we also have a promise of Christ’s immediate presence. That no matter what we are going through personally or globally, followers of Jesus have the promise that the Lord of all is present with us. This enables us to trust him, no matter the circumstances we find ourselves in.