



EASTER SUNDAY

20 April 2025

Summary:

This Easter Sunday Message explores the profound meaning of Christ's resurrection and its transformative power in the lives of believers. It emphasizes that the resurrection is not just a historical event or a doctrine, but a calling to live as new creations in Christ. The Message encourages listeners to embrace the resurrection as a daily reality, offering hope, renewal, and the power to overcome shame and failure through God's love and grace.

Key Points:

- The resurrection redefines what's possible in our lives
- We are called to walk in newness of life through Christ's resurrection
- Jesus comes to us in our moments of failure and shame
- The resurrection is about restoration, reinstatement, and recommissioning
- Living as resurrection people involves returning to prayer, receiving sacraments, and walking with others
- Sharing our personal stories of faith is a powerful way to proclaim Christ

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 6:4
- John 21:1-14

Stories:

- The story of Peter's denial and subsequent restoration by Jesus at the Sea of Tiberias
- Mary Magdalene's encounter with the risen Christ at the tomb
- Bruce's personal story of feeling defeated in ministry and finding renewed hope through remembering Peter's story
- An anecdote about a man who decided to share his faith with his brother for

EASTER SUNDAY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How does the concept of resurrection as 'not just a miracle, but a calling' challenge your understanding of Easter and its implications for daily life?

In what ways have you experienced 'small deaths' in your life, and how might the resurrection power of Jesus speak into those situations?

Reflect on a time when you, like Peter, retreated to the familiar due to shame or failure. How did God meet you in that place?

How does the idea that 'mercy speaks louder than memory' impact your view of past mistakes and God's forgiveness?

In what areas of your life do you need to hear Jesus say 'I'm not finished with you yet'? How might this change your perspective?

Consider the story of Mary Magdalene at the tomb. How can we cultivate the ability to recognize Jesus' voice in our daily lives?

How does the image of Jesus cooking breakfast for the disciples after his resurrection shape your understanding of his care and intimacy with us?

Reflect on the statement 'It's never about the fish, it's about Jesus.' How might this reframe your approach to work, ministry, or personal goals?

In what ways are you being called to 'go again' in your faith journey, even after disappointment or perceived failure?

How can we embody the 'new creation' that Paul speaks of in our relationships, work, and community engagement?

EASTER SUNDAY

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a prayer asking God to open hearts and minds to the message of resurrection and new life in Christ. Pray the Impacters prayer together as a group.

Key Takeaways:

1. Resurrection is not just a miracle or doctrine, but a calling and new way to exist.
2. Jesus comes to us in our failures and confusion, offering restoration and recommissioning.
3. Resurrection living involves returning to prayer, receiving sacraments, and walking with others.
4. God reinterprets our past, allowing mercy to speak louder than memory.
5. We are called to proclaim Christ's resurrection through our lives and words.

Discussion Questions:

1. The Message states, "Resurrection is not just a miracle. It's a calling." What does this mean to you personally?
2. Reflect on a time when you felt like Peter, retreating to the familiar due to shame or failure. How did God meet you in that moment?
3. How can we practically "sit with Jesus, not with our guilt" in our daily lives?
4. The Message mentions that "some of the most powerful witnesses are not the most articulate, but they are the most convinced." How does this challenge or encourage you in sharing your faith?
5. Discuss the statement: "Resurrection doesn't just change our future. It reinterprets our past." How have you experienced this in your own life?
6. How can we live as "resurrection people" in our families, workplaces, and communities?

Practical Applications:

1. Prayer Challenge: Commit to spending 10 minutes each day this week in silent prayer, focusing on Jesus' presence.
2. Share Your Story: Practice telling your personal story of encountering Jesus to another group member.
3. Acts of Hope: Identify one way you can be a "person of hope" in a challenging situation this week.

4. Proclamation Practice: Ask someone if you can pray for them this week, even if they don't share your beliefs.
5. Sacramental Living: If applicable to your tradition, intentionally prepare for and receive communion, reflecting on its connection to resurrection life.

Closing Prayer:

Closing Activity: Have each group member complete this sentence:
"Because of Easter, I am _____. " Share these statements as a group and close in prayer, thanking God for the gift of resurrection life.