

Easter Special

Read Luke 24:1-12

When we speak of Easter, we speak of newness, of resurrection, of a certain Someone who conquered death and made a mockery of the grave – the One in whom is a new beginning, salvation, victory, redemption, power, hope and eternal life. When we speak of Easter, we speak of the One who is called the Resurrection and the Life – the man Christ Jesus.

Whatever we choose to believe about Jesus, we cannot dismiss the Easter story. His empty tomb compels us to revisit His life and examine the claims He makes concerning Himself. Jesus claims to be the only Way to God the Father. He calls Himself the Living Water; the Bread of Life; the Light of the world; the Good Shepherd; the Alpha and the Omega; the First and the Last; the Beginning and the End.

Even to the casual listener, these are bold and powerful claims indeed, so much so in fact, that no one can simply shrug them off and dismiss them. Every single one of us must confront this Jesus and, one way or the other, make up our minds about Him. The stakes are too crucial for neutrality – We all must decide whether we will believe Him or not.

Was He some hopelessly misguided, drunken lunatic who had illusions about His identity? Was He a liar deliberately trying to deceive the naïve and ignorant? Was He a false prophet; a blasphemer; a heretic? Was He a phony; the figment of some mad man's imagination; some wacko looking for attention?

Imagine being hailed as the Lord of lords, the King of kings; the God of gods; the Wonderful Counselor; the Mighty God; the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace! Jesus goes so far as to declare Himself the only begotten Son of God – the Savior of the world – who willingly died to save mankind from sin. Had He not risen from the grave, the world most probably would never be so opinionated about Him, but that first Easter morning forever changed the course of history. Easter arrests us and dares us to decide.

Jesus has been and continues to be the central focus of countless books and movies and songs and poems and plays and paintings and discussions and debates. Some people are united because of Him; others break up because of Him. To the ears of some, His name is music; sweetness on their tongues; healing to their bodies; the answer to every issue of life. Others find the very mention of His name offensive; they can't bear to talk about Him, because, they, like all the rest of us know that once we agree that Jesus is all He claims to be, He should be enthroned in every heart and exalted in every life.