

# EASTER

AT THE CROSSING



**EASTER 2020**

Grace is Waiting  
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**SUNDAY MESSAGE QUESTIONS**

The Crossing Church  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## OPENING

**HE'S ALIVE! JESUS IS ALIVE!** The gates of Heaven are open wide! In the midst of fear and confusion, Jesus brings hope for a new life through His resurrection. We are celebrating this Easter the greatest love story the world has ever known! This week, we are starting a new series on Jesus' life. We will walk through the Gospel of Mark together and lean into the life of Jesus, seeing how He marked everyone with whom He came in contact. Our hope is that it will not only bring some consistency each week, but that we will be impacted by the life of Jesus in a new way. This first week we are going to look at how the story ends, sort of like reading the last chapter of a mystery novel and then rewinding to see how it unfolds chapter by chapter.

**Question:** How is your life unfolding before you this week? How is God caring for you and your family?

## SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>

**Mark 16:1-4** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome brought spices so that they might go and anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

**John 20:11-18a** Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!"

**Romans 10:9** If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**Acts 22:16** And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

**Romans 3:23** All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture is NIV unless otherwise indicated

## **OBSERVATION**

The Gospel of Mark ends with the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. It is there at His tomb that Mary from Magdala comes on Easter morning. Interestingly, she is the least likely person to be the first to see the resurrected Christ. First, she was a woman and women in that culture were not believed credible enough to testify in court so of what value could her witness that Jesus was alive be. Secondly, she was a woman with a past. Before she met Jesus, Mary was possessed with seven demons. After Jesus healed her, she became His follower and traveled with Him paying for His group's needs out of her own pocket. She had a heart for God just as David and Paul and so many other Biblical heroes did, and God honored that heartfelt love and devotion by giving them ministries that changed the world.

**Question:** Where is your heart when it comes to loving God? How is He honoring your love of Him by giving you a ministry and purpose? Discuss other Biblical figures who had a heart for God?

Besides Mary, Jesus had selected twelve men to be His disciples and companions during His ministry. They were a motley crew who came with issues of their own: fishermen, a tax collector, Sons of Thunder, a zealot who tried to overthrow the Roman rule in Israel and one who would deny Him three times. Yet Jesus gathered them around Him, taught them about His Father, healed the sick, cared for the poor and sustained the ten of them who were martyred in His name.

**Question:** How far do you think your faith will take you in living for God in hard times? If He asked you to go to your own cross, how would you answer Him? How do you, as you reflect on all God has done in the past, plan to face the confusion and uncertainty of the weeks ahead?

## **APPLICATION**

We are perhaps in the most unprecedented time in recent history. The Coronavirus has touched every aspect of our lives in a profound way, from sickness, to death, to economic concerns, to unemployment, to isolation and fear. But remember, through the Cross and the empty tomb, Jesus has handled our greatest issue -- **SIN!** The Cross is about our sin. God sent Jesus to that Cross 2000 years ago because of our sin issue. The resurrection is the basis of our faith.

**Question:** When did you first realize the enormity of your own sin and that God wasn't ignoring it or excusing it? What did you do in response to that realization?

**Question:** When have you fully given over your life to God? Why are you still holding back and allowing fear to keep you awake at night?

So many people today are anxious for everything to get back to normal. Normal was comfortable, wasn't it? It was also spiritually lukewarm like the church at Laodicea.<sup>2</sup> Many believe that what we are going through in our world right now is a wake-up call and it is time for all of us to finally say **YES** to Jesus with passion, boldness, and a trust in God that says we can rely on Him for the future.

**Question:** When will you approach Him with a heart of obedience, surrender, submission, humility and self-sacrifice?

**Question:** If you have prayed the prayer of repentance and given your life to Christ, how are you feeling about your life and future now?

## **PRAYER**

All of us, those who are accepting Christ for the first time and others who are recommitting our lives to Him, as we reflect on Christ's death and resurrection, need to approach Him with gratitude and humility as we pray, "Jesus, we acknowledge that we need You. We are sorry for the ways we have hurt You and the mistakes we've made. We are placing all of our faith in You and trusting our futures entirely in Your hands. Thank you, Lord, for Your grace." In Jesus' name. Amen

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<sup>2</sup> Revelation 3:14-18