

**Easter 2022
Welcome Home
April 17, 2022**

No one disputes if Jesus was a real person who changed our world.

Can Jesus change your world?

Inattentional Blindness = The surprising failure to notice something so obvious.

- 1) It's bigger than our expectations.**
- 2) Our attention becomes focused on something else.**

Many of us have inattentional blindness when it comes to Jesus and for the same two reasons:

- 1) Who He was and what He did was way bigger than what anyone could have imagined.**
- 2) So many around Jesus were focusing on the wrong things.**

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. (Matthew 16:21)

*After they gathered again in Galilee, Jesus told them, "The Son of Man is going to be **betrayed** into the hands of his enemies. He will be **killed**, but on the **third day** he will be **raised from the dead**." (Matthew 17:22-23 NLT)*

*"Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be **betrayed** to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to **die**. Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and **crucified**. But on the **third day** he will be **raised from the dead**." (Matthew 20:18-19 NLT)*

Two big reasons many of us miss the message of Easter:

- 1) God's unconditional love is so big; it goes way beyond our wildest expectations.**

God's love is so big that He doesn't just love you unconditionally; He loves you counter-conditionally; in spite of your conditions.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:6-8 NLT)

- 2) Our attention gets focused on everything else but God.**

[Moses chose] ...to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. (Hebrews 11:25 KJV)

You're empty inside, because you've put God to the side.

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved... (John 10:9)

The wrong door.

Trying to find fulfillment in anything or anyone outside of Jesus.

Do not love the world or anything in the world... For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.
(1 John 2:15-17 NIV)

The locked door.

Thinking that the “key” to being good with God is my good works.

Most people believe that good people go to heaven.

How good is good enough?

Good people don’t go to heaven, forgiven people do.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses.
(2 Corinthians 5:19 ASV)

The slammed door.

Thinking God is ashamed of you and won’t accept you because of your past.

“To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything.” –Tim Keller

...because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. (Acts 2:24 NIV)

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38 NIV)

God invites anyone who wants to be forgiven and come home to Him to:

- 1. Believe in Jesus.**
- 2. Repent of your sins.**
- 3. Be baptized.**

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” (Acts 2:41)

“I believe—that Jesus is the Christ—the Son of the Living God—my Savior and Lord!”