

Easter Changes Everything

We're going to see if we can get some our facts about Easter straight today.

--Facts are fairly clear as far as the event but the facts of what Easter has done for us sometimes aren't as clear.

--The simple fact of Easter, as a rule of thumb, is that it changed everything!

Whatever was, for the most part, is no longer true about whatever is: **I Cor. 15:20-28**

1. Easter has changed our History

--**V. 20** – The triumphant message of Easter is that Jesus has risen. He has overcome death!

--Watchman Nee = "Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection."

The entire world lives between two resurrections

--Chronicles of history are bookended with two enormous events:

the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of all those who trust in Him!

--Jesus is the first fruits of a full harvest resurrection—He's the **first installment** of a full harvest.

--The harvest has already begun; it's no longer a question of whether or not humans will resurrect because *one of us already has!*

"First fruits" is a word that doesn't hit us the way it would have first century readers

--Hear it this way: He is the Archetype, Prototype, Forerunner of a much larger and inevitable resurrection that is coming.

Think of His resurrection as a flight that took off 2K years ago. Have you been on those flights where on a screen they show an airplane image that represents your flight, and there is arc that stretches from the point of origin to the point of destination? Every so often they will flash that up so that you can know the answer to the "how much longer until we get there" question.

--So, history is currently in flight from where it lifted off to where it will land – it took off at Jesus' resurrection.

We don't know when it will land but we definitely know where!

--History came off the ground at that first Easter— it is coming down with our full physical restoration in bodies that can never die again.

2. The reason why Easter changed History is because it has changed death

Death was the overlord, the dictator of humanity, kept all flights grounded, but with Jesus' resurrection, that's all changed.

--Easter begs these questions: **I Cor. 15:55**—these defiant questions have the same answer: "No where!"

--Because death has been disarmed: **I Cor. 15:56-57**

IF you have sinned, you have been stung by death—it kills 100% of its victims and has as its culmination Hell itself.

--IF you have trusted Jesus as the only remedy for your sin, Death for you is **stinger-less**.

--A hornet with no stinger—still looks ferocious but is harmless.

--**V. 20c** – "Asleep"? This is a very important word. Death has had a makeover! —who couldn't use a little sleep?!

3. Easter changed our inheritance – **VV. 21-22** – People don't just die—they inherit death –

--Adam conceived sin, so, all who came after him were born with that terminal flaw.

--You don't have to sin to die – you just have to be born or, really, just be conceived!

Bad news: your birth insures your death.

--You know how insurance is. Sometimes it comes through and sometimes it doesn't

--You know how inheritance is, sometimes you get it and sometimes you don't.

--How effective has Adam's death insurance and inheritance policy been? 100%

That sounds like bad news, but it's actually good news because it serves as **precedent for another ruling**: as effective as Adam's death inheritance has been, so will be effectiveness of Jesus' life inheritance.

--Your resurrection is inevitability! Easter has changed everything.

4. Changed everything right down to our Jewelry.

--How many are wearing a cross on their person? Bible? In home?

--Do you have any idea how utterly repulsive that would have been to a first century person?

--The worst form of punishment ever invented—Romans crucified by the thousands—was intended to strike absolute terror into those Rome held under its thumb

--We now wear crosses as jewelry!

You may familiar with gothic culture where young people dressing in black makeup and fingernail polish, etc. wear skulls and other symbols of death. They've got nothing on the little old lady sitting in church with a cross around her neck—that's the darkest adornment ever created by man.

--There is nothing more morbid than a cross—or I should say, **was**...Easter has changed everything.

--What was the symbol of the ultimate death is now the symbol of the ultimate life—so crazy its funny!

All of this is true for us if we will simply meet with the Change Agent, Himself

--Mary and Martha lost their brother Lazarus—Jesus misses the funeral but shows up four days too late according to them.

--**John 11:23** – Sounds like a weak platitude and platitudes at a time of grief don't really help.

--Great theology but it would be cold theology if it were coming from anyone but Jesus.

--**V. 24** – She's got the theology down, but she's still crying.

--Jesus hits her with the bombshell – **VV. 25-26**

--He's not asking her if she believes in the teaching; He's asking if she believes in the Teacher!

This is huge! when we believe the Bible we aren't just believing a teaching—we are believing a Person!

--He's not asking if she believes in the change but in the **Change Agent**.

That's where it all changes: where those who desperately need a change meet the Change Agent.

We live between two resurrections one is a matter of history the other is a matter of time. If we want to be a part of the next one, we have to be a part of the first one.