

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
Andy Deane · 4/9/2023 · John 20

Today you'll hear, "Happy Easter! Rejoice!" And yet that may not be how you truly feel. That's ok, but I'd like to explain why a Christ follower, though they are experiencing real difficulty in this world, can still have an attitude of rejoicing.

**Did you know that Easter Sunday started not in rejoicing, but in weeping?**

John 20:11-13, *11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 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."*

Mary had no hope because she thought Jesus was dead. Think about that for a moment, what if Jesus stayed dead?

1 Corinthians 15:14-19, *14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

**IF JESUS STAYED DEAD:**

1. There's no reason to come to church! (v.14)
2. Our faith is just a nice, but useless, thought! (v.14)
3. Christianity would be a religion based on lies! (v.15)
4. We'll still be judged as guilty for our sins! (v.17)
5. We'd have no hope of life after death! (v.18)
6. Christians should be the most pitied! (v.19)

If that was true, then it makes sense that Mary was crying, but that's not the end of the story.

John 20:14-20, *14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 15 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." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). 17 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.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. 19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.*

**IF JESUS IS ALIVE:**

1. We're given: SALVATION from our SINS:  
Romans 4:24-25, *<sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.<sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*
2. We're given: STRENGTH for our STRUGGLES  
Ephesians 1:19-20, *<sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.*

- If you put your trust in Jesus today for salvation, please text "JOURNEY" to (951)425-4425 so we can support you.
  - Visit <https://go2cornerstone.com/baptism/> to sign up for our April 16<sup>th</sup> baptisms.
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