



Easter Sunday Say Goodbye

April 12, 2020

#newpointechurch

Bottom Line: Easter means I can say goodbye to condemnation, resentment, hopelessness, fear, and death.

Icebreaker: Share a favorite Easter memory. Or, share the food that is traditional in your family at Easter. Or, Jelly Beans or Peeps?

Key Verse: *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.* Galatians 5:1

Jesus said to Mary at the tomb of her brother Lazarus, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26). Essentially Jesus was giving Mary a glimpse into the future. He was saying, "You will never have to say goodbye to me. Because I live, you can say 'goodbye' to all that would hold you back." That's what Paul meant when he said that it was for freedom that Christ has set us free.

You and I are given the same opportunity as Mary. Because Jesus lives, you can say goodbye to **CONDEMNATION**. You may have spent your whole life trying to get the elusive approval of others. But you don't need anyone's approval but God's. When you know that God loves you and you are forgiven, condemnation, shame, and guilt are gone. Then you have the power to say goodbye to **RESENTMENT**. Resentment keeps the wounds of the past fresh and open and eats up your energy for life. When we are forgiven, we are called upon to forgive and give others the grace that has been given us. You will improve your own life when you do! We can also say goodbye to **HOPELESSNESS**. People are looking for the essential ingredient of hope in all the wrong places. When you know Jesus, He will give you the kind of hope that lifts you from despair and gives you room to breathe. You can say goodbye to **INSECURITY**. Your insecurities show where you do not trust God, but there is no need to fear the future because there is absolutely no dilemma, difficulty, defeat, or disaster from which God can't eventually get good and glory from. And the greatest fear and bondage of all for mankind is **DEATH**. Jesus's death and resurrection makes it possible to forever say goodbye to death, our worst enemy!

Once you accept Jesus, there is no more goodbye to Him. It's a forever hello to life and freedom to the full!

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Which of the "goodbyes" Jesus makes possible have made the biggest difference in your life? How?

Jesus says that He completely accepts you and loves you unconditionally. As you understand that truth, it will change your life. You will never be the same again. Has that goodbye to shame been said in your life? If so, when and how have you changed? If not, what is the obstacle to you releasing your shame and condemnation?

You don't need anyone's approval but God's. Does that seem like reality to you or not? Why?

You will never have to forgive anyone else more than Christ has forgiven you. Why do you think this is such a challenge to accept and act upon?

The unhealthiest human holds on to resentment. How is that so? What has resentment done to you?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Where do you see people looking for hope? Would you describe your hope, currently, in this situation, as "overflowing" or not? Explain.

Insecurity is a choice. Agree or disagree? Why?

Discuss Romans 8:28: "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." How does that help you say goodbye to insecurity?

The more of God you have in your life, the less insecurity and fear you will have. How has that been true for you?

Have you lived any days of your life as a "slave to the fear of dying"? (Hebrews 2:14-15). Can you identify when that began to change for you?

How can these freedoms shape your witness to our needy world right now?

NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate your acceptance of all Jesus came to do for you.
2. Wherever you have not said goodbye to the old life and its bondage, do that.
3. Share your freedom with someone this week.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

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Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Romans 5:1

Tuesday: Ephesians 3:17-19

Wednesday: Hebrews 12:15

Thursday: Romans 5:3-5

Friday: Hebrews 2:14-15; 2 Timothy 1:9-10

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)