

EASTER US, WE PRAY

MATTHEW 28 - ERIC SIMPSON - APRIL 1, 2018

"Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western Culture for almost twenty centuries. If it were possible, with some sort of super magnet, to pull up out of the history every scrap of metal bearing at least a trace of his name, how much would be left?"

- Jaroslav Pelikan (Yale historian)

➤ Easter completes the rhythm we experience in this life.

John 11:25

... "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies"

Endings—Waiting—New Beginnings



➤ Easter brings the death of death.

John 8:51

"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."

Death moves from a period at the end of the sentence to a comma in the middle.

➤ Easter shifts our vocabulary from impossible to God-possible.

Matthew 28:2-9

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.