

Easter Sunday  
April 1, 2018  
**“Does Easter Really Matter?”**  
**(Mark 16:1-8)**

Even though Jesus had told them he would be crucified, and on the third day be resurrected, it took a while for the event to become \_\_\_\_\_ to them.

It's clear that, at first, even \_\_\_\_\_, Christ's most prominent \_\_\_\_\_, didn't know what to believe.

Many people today have difficulty believing in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Does it really matter that Christ is risen from the grave?

**#1. – It matters if you have ever truly \_\_\_\_\_ somebody and lost them to \_\_\_\_\_.**

Separation is difficult for those who've lost someone close to them. It leaves a \_\_\_\_\_ that nothing can fill.

Easter is important to us for what it says to us about our continuing \_\_\_\_\_ with those we love.

**#2. – It also matters if you \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of life.**

Life is \_\_\_\_\_. Life is simply too wonderful to welcome death as a \_\_\_\_\_.

God has instilled within each of us the \_\_\_\_\_ to live, here on this earth for as long as we can.

***“We all want to go on forever, don't we? We fear the unknown. Everybody goes to that wall, yet nobody knows what's on the other side. That's why we fear death.”***

- Jack Nicholson -

(over)

We don't so much fear death as much as we \_\_\_\_\_ letting go of life.

We all want to live. Still death is one reality in life that \_\_\_\_\_ us all.

**#3. – It also matters if you want to make any \_\_\_\_\_ out of living.**

If Christ lives, then life has \_\_\_\_\_. There is \_\_\_\_\_ even in the most difficult circumstances.

Even at the end of my rope, here is a \_\_\_\_\_ I can hang on to. If Christ defeated death, if my life goes on forever, if the gospel is true, I can live \_\_\_\_\_, victoriously!

I can overcome my \_\_\_\_\_ by his \_\_\_\_\_ and I can be all he intends for me to be.

We need to be reminded of the power of \_\_\_\_\_ over death, of \_\_\_\_\_ over despair, of \_\_\_\_\_ over hate.

The only place that can be found is by peering into the \_\_\_\_\_ tomb of the man from Galilee!

Are we simply a \_\_\_\_\_ who fills a space on this earth and then dies and is forgotten?

What is the meaning of it all, if death has not been \_\_\_\_\_?

But it has been conquered!

Jesus Christ has risen from the grave!

What amazing good news this Easter Day! Hallelujah! He lives!

Amen.