

Easter at Epic

Bad News and Good News

WEEK OF APRIL 17, 2022

Easter presents us with the opportunity to reflect on some bad news, and some good news. Spoiler alert—the good news is way better than the bad news.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- When Easter becomes more personal, it changes everything.
 - The bad news—we are sinners.
 - The problem with substituting the word “sin” with the word “mistake” is that they aren’t the same thing.
 - A mistake = insufficient knowledge
 - Sometimes, we make “mistakes” on purpose.
 - Sometimes, we make the same “mistakes” over and over again.
 - What is it called when we make mistakes on purpose over and over again? Sin.
 - ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... | Romans 3, v.23
 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. | Romans 6, v.23
 - The Good News—Jesus is a Savior.
 - Read the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 6, verses 6-26.
 - There’s water that can pacify, and there’s water that can satisfy.
 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit” because it’s in that place of need that you’re finally ready to recognize your thirst and ask for what you need.
 - Jesus says, “Bring me your good, bad, and ugly. I want it all.”
 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. | Romans 5, v.8
 - When we least expect it, when we least deserve it, Jesus loves us.
 - The bad news? I’m a sinner. The good news? Jesus is a Savior.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The gospel makes us grapple with the fact that we’re all sinners—not just “mistakers.” How do you understand or explain the difference between a “mistake” and sin?
2. Jesus teaches, “Blessed are the poor in spirit”—those who know recognize their need. Elsewhere, scripture teaches that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” In what ways or in which circumstances do you find yourself most proud and unable to ask for help?
3. Reflect on a time that you were aware of your need and humbled enough to ask God and/or someone for help—what did that experience teach you?
4. When you’re feeling shame, failure, or defeat, and you experience full, unconditional love in that moment, what does that do for you? Have you experienced this before? If not, what do you think is keeping you from that?