



Join the  
**Celebration**

EASTER 2019  
FIRST BAPTIST CABOT

**Monday, April 1, 2019 [Day 1]**

**Gen 3:15; Gen 12:1-8; Gal 3:15-16**

You might think it is strange that we would start an Easter reading plan in Genesis, so far away in time and distance from the story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. I (Terry) get that. The Resurrection Story is the greatest story ever told, but it simply does not start at the cross. The Resurrection Story starts before Jesus was born, before God chose to start a nation through Abraham, before the flood in Noah's time, and, yes, even before creation! It is easy to casually read the story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and get the impression that God had to take drastic measures to correct a mistake so He sent His Son to earth to die on the cross. That is not the Resurrection Story.

The truth is God created the world and man knowing that he would sin and forever change the paradise of God's creation. God loved us and chose to create us, but before He created us, He had a plan. It was not plan "b". It was plan "a". His Son would die to pay the price for our sin and God would raise Him from the dead. Because God had a plan, He was able to make a promise thousands of years before Jesus would even be born, that one day sin and death would be defeated. God's plan and His promises were fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ and His Resurrection Story.

Terry Bostick

**Tuesday April 2, 2019 [Day 2]**

**Micah 5:1-5; Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 2:1-6**

The prophets Isaiah and Micah were contemporaries, whose ministries overlapped during the reign of the kings of Judah: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. About 200 years earlier, the Kingdom of Israel had split into two separate kingdoms – Israel to the north and Judah to the south. Rivalry between the kingdoms was constant, as were wars, invasions, and ill-advised alliances with neighboring nations. Some kings sought to follow God while some blatantly rebelled against Him. God's people seemed to never be able to stop the continual pattern of straying from Him and then returning again, with varying degrees of sincerity.

Into this ebb and flow of unfaithfulness to God, the prophets Isaiah and Micah spoke. About 700 years before Jesus came, Micah foretold the birth of “one who will be ruler over Israel” in the town of Bethlehem and Isaiah prophesied that a “virgin will conceive” and bare a son who would be named “God with us” – Immanuel. And so, hundreds of years later, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary announcing that the prophecy was coming to pass. The words of Micah also told the Wise Men exactly where they could go and worship Him.

The evidence is all around us. God is faithful. His word is true. He will bring to pass all that He has promised.

Ken Holland

**Wednesday April 3, 2019 [Day 3]**

**Deuteronomy 18:15, John 16:14, Acts 3:18-22**

God Has a Plan

But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Acts 3:18

The events surrounding the Easter narrative: the betrayal, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus were not a surprise to God. From the very beginning, foreknowing that Adam and Eve would rebel against Him, bringing sin into our world, God set into motion a plan for the redemption of His creation. The scriptures make it abundantly clear that God sent Jesus, His only Son, into the world for just that purpose. Jesus willingly came to give His own life to redeem us from the punishment of our sins. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we can experience forgiveness and eternal life. This certainly is Good News!

As we reflect on God's perfect plan for our eternal salvation, be assured that God also has designed a plan for your life today, in the here and now! Jesus states in John 10:10 that He came to offer us an abundant life, a life with purpose: Kingdom purpose. Our Heavenly Father speaking through the prophet Jeremiah says it this way in Jeremiah 29:11 "for I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." God has a plan; a unique plan, for your life. We can trust Him and we can depend upon Him regardless of what might come our way in life.

So, as certain as we can trust God for our salvation and eternity, we can trust Him with our "todays". And, as assuredly as God was well aware of the events that took place surrounding that first Easter, He is never caught off guard by the events surrounding your life!

God has a plan and you can trust Him!

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

- Corrie Ten Boom

Greg Hooper

**Thursday, April 4, 2019 [Day 4]**

**Isaiah 9:1-7**

Isaiah 9:1-7 is a message of hope and redemption given to us by the messianic prophet. It is not just a message of hope, but the greatest message of hope ever given. From the gloom of God's people, resulting from their sins and disobedience, there came a promise of delivery and redemption. The prophet was very specific as to where this deliverer would come from. He would come from beyond the Jordan and Galilee. A clear reference to Christ. This passage contains such a clear figurative message of a literal event. Out of the darkness a light will shine, to be seen by every nation and all mankind. God's people will rejoice again at the abundant mercies of God. The yoke and rod restricting their joy will be removed. The staff of oppression will be shattered. All of these restraints will be burned as fuel for a fire.

The literal redemption came in the forms of a son and a child. Not just any son, but the Son of the Living God. He came as God Incarnate, God with Us. Not just God with Us, but our Eternal Father. He came as the deliverer of our eternal promise.

As a child, the Redeemer became man. He lived among man to seek and save that which was lost. Living a perfect life He became the perfect sacrifice for man to be redeemed back to the Father. When He was nailed to the cruel cursed cross, our sin debt was paid. When He came out of the borrowed tomb, our VICTORY was secured. He became our Eternal Father (deliverer of the promise). VICTORY IN JESUS, OUR SAVIOR FOREVER!

Rick Morgan

**Friday, April 5, 2019 [Day 5]**

**Isaiah 53:1-12**

Part of preparing for Easter each year has to involve each of us considering the fullness of the suffering of Christ in order for us to fully celebrate the fullness of the resurrection of Christ. It can be all too easy each year for us to put on our "pastel" best and enjoy the excitement that Easter brings as we sit around the table on Easter Sunday to share a meal with our family and friends. At the end of the day, we will be glad for the day He has given us. But will we heavily consider the Easter meal being at someone else's house or even at the finest restaurant in town next year? I pray this Easter is more than just a holiday where we share a special meal. I pray it is a journey of remembrance for what God has done for each and every one of us. Jesus took on the iniquity of us all. He was bruised for our transgressions. Isaiah calls him the Man of Sorrows and He was acquainted with grief which means He knows our sin, our pain, and our shame. He willingly poured Himself as an offering for us so that we could be known as His family. If we don't survey the cross and see the part we have in Jesus' suffering on the cross, we may fail to appreciate the opportunity to share the victory we have in a risen Savior. Prepare to celebrate... go tell!

Robert José

**Saturday, April 6, 2019 [Day 6]**

**Matthew 16:21-23; Matthew 17:22-23; Matthew 20:17-19**

It's amazing to think about the fact that Jesus not only knew when He was going die, but also how He was going to die. He knew His death would be torturous and that its arrival would be soon. In most situations, the average person does not know when they will die or how, but if we ever did have this unfortunate foresight, it would possibly be enough to drive us crazy. In Jesus' case, He knew what was coming, but that did not deter Him from accomplishing His mission. He willingly and faithfully pursued the cross and did not run from it. Jesus knew His Father's Will, and that was enough for Him to stay focused on the task ahead. Although Jesus knew that He would suffer tremendously and be killed, He also knew that three days later, the grip of death would be loosened and He would be set free from the grave.

For those of us who have placed our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we can be confident in the fact that just as Jesus conquered sin and death, in the end, so shall we.

Donnie Burrow

**Sunday, April 7, 2019 [Day 7]**

**John 6:22-40**

Today as Americans we have everything at the tip of our fingers and with the press of a button. We can call a friend, order our favorite food, pay for something we want, and listen to whatever our heart desires. I'd be one to agree that this age of technology is wonderful and can be used to do great things. BUT what it does in negative aspects is it creates a sense of control over everything that God has given us. With it grabbing every inch of our attention, how can we focus on the One who created us and have a deep lasting relationship with Him that is above every other? The answer is found in John 6: 35 – "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."

One of the most passive sins of our culture today is gluttony. Many times I find myself in times of joy, sadness, and boredom reaching for something to eat to suffice the feelings I have. I believe that is our culture as well. We depend on earthly food, but forget the true "lifter" of that need. Verses 27-29 speak directly to this problem. Let us put all of our trust in the "food" that lasts for eternity.

My challenge to you today is to walk in desperation for the food that only Jesus gives. Let us walk in the Will of the Lord step by step with our eyes fixed on the Bread of Life.

Andrew Chandler

**Monday, April 8, 2019 [Day 8]**

**John 8:12-20**

“This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine...” You know you were singing along! Jesus tells us in verse 12 that whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. This light is far from little, but even a small light can consume the darkness. Jesus is the Light of the World and we should be His light bearers. As we approach Easter, I pray that we are not bearers of ourselves. If we don't walk each day with Christ to ensure that we are bearers of His light, then we can only offer darkness to those around us. Nothing we have can offer hope nor bring life except for Jesus Christ. I pray that we are found walking in His light so that we can offer life to those who are in desperate need of a Savior. To be honest, even as Christians, we are still desperate for Christ as we would have nothing without Him. Cue up where we left off, and bear witness to Christ Jesus our Lord as we lean into Easter. Let your light shine before men, so that they too may have life... “I'm going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!”

Robert José

**Tuesday, April 9, 2019 [Day 9]**

**John 8:48-59**

In verses 39-47, Jesus is having a discussion with the Jews (descendants of Abraham). They don't trust what Jesus is saying because they believe in Abraham and the God he served and they are blinded to who Abraham dedicated his life to. Jesus is arguing against their beliefs and calling them out and it's definitely offending them.

How many times do we find ourselves acting just like the Jews in this situation? They are trusting the words of their forefathers and not trusting the words of Jesus. Abraham stood for Jesus and in verse 56 it says "Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad." 2,000 plus years before the birth of Jesus, Abraham yearned for the day when Jesus would come. Let us be a people that yearns for the coming of Christ and that stand on the Word of the Lord. Accept it. Believe it. Commit to it. Defend it.

I love how this passage ends in verse 58, "Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." That verse takes us back to John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." He was and is and is to come. Did Abraham know Jesus? Sure, he did. He dedicated his life to Him. Before Abraham was, I Am was there. Choose to follow Jesus today in all areas of your life. He is worthy of our trust!

Andrew Chandler

**Wednesday April 10, 2019 [Day 10]**  
**John 10:1-21**

The Good, Good Shepherd

I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15

Shepherds have been around for thousands of years. In fact, shepherding is probably one of the oldest occupations in the world. They still exist today in spite of modern farming methods and the reduction of natural predators. In the Western US large sheep ranchers still utilize migrant shepherds to herd their sheep, watching over and protecting them.

In John chapter 10 Jesus refers to Himself as the one and only Good Shepherd. He states that the Good Shepherd knows his sheep and is there to care for them. The Good Shepherd leads his sheep, He guides and directs them. He knows each sheep by name, not just as part of the flock but by name!

In contrast, Jesus identifies the Pharisees as fake shepherds. Shepherds who desire to steal for personal gain. The fake shepherd steals joy, hope, security of God's people and drives others away from God. The fake shepherd is out to destroy the flock. There are still a lot of fake shepherds in our world today!

Jesus declares that He is our Good Shepherd. He knows His sheep by their name. He knows your name, and He calls you by your name! Not only does He know your name, He knows all about you. The Good Shepherd knows your heart, your hurts, and your pains. He knows when you fall and when you fail. Yet as the Good Shepherd, He loves you with a deep abiding love! His grace forgives, heals, and leads you to a better place! The Good Shepherd promises to lead His sheep into abundant life!

It takes some of us a lifetime to learn that Christ, our Good Shepherd, knows exactly what He is doing with us. He understands us perfectly. - W. Phillip Keller

Greg Hooper

**Thursday, April 11, 2019 [Day 11]**  
**John 11:17-27**

It is no accident that Jesus chose this particular time and event to reveal more of who He really was to His friends and to us. The untimely death of a friend has left Jesus' friends' lives in turmoil. They are confused, disappointed, and because four days have now passed since Lazarus' death, they are hopeless. Death and the fear of death have universally plagued men and women since the fall of man in Genesis. Philosophy and theology are man's attempts at understanding the great questions of life. They seek to understand where we came from, why we are here, and ultimately, what happens when we die. Philosophy and theology can help us in our pursuit of the ultimate answers to these questions. But here in John, Jesus does not meet the difficulty of the death of a friend and the brother of Mary with a new philosophy or even with a new doctrine. Instead, He offers Himself, a real person. A personal relationship of love and trust with Himself. He asked Martha, and us today, to trust Him. On what basis does He offer us a relationship with Him that will help us face death or overcome the fear of death? It is based on His indestructible life, on His resurrection, on His ultimate victory over death! To trust in the "I am the resurrection and the life" is to have the promise of our resurrection to life eternal with Jesus.

Terry Bostick

**Friday, April 12, 2019 [Day 12]**  
**John 14:1-11**

Although the unfortunate name “Doubting Thomas” has a certain ring to it – I prefer to call him “Inquisitive Thomas” – possibly “Skeptical” or even “Incredulous Thomas.” You see, Thomas knew very much what he believed but he also was very comfortable challenging new beliefs until he could understand them or even have physical proof. (“Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe.” John 20:24)

And so, in this passage we who have raised children hear echoes of that inquisitive mind that continually asks, “But how?” – “I don’t understand.” Those are the wonderful teaching moments when you recognize that this is honest inquiry. Thomas never said or even implied, “No, you’re not preparing a place.” Or “We can’t ever know the way.” He believed Jesus. He just wanted the Teacher to help him understand more fully.

Asking for evidence or explanation is not doubt – it is seeking the truth. In this case, it was seeking the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And God will always be pleased with that kind of inquisitiveness.

Ken Holland

**Saturday, April 13, 2019 [Day 13]**  
**John 15:1-8**

It is through us that God expects fruit to be produced, but don't be mistaken the increase is from the Father through the Vine, Jesus Christ.

The word "fruit" means a product of a tree or plant that contains seed or seeds. Fruit bearing trees and plants utilize their fruit to reproduce. The fruit of a particular tree or plant is clearly expected to produce a tree or plant of the same type. The same way our fruits are expected to produce more disciples.

In John 15:1-8, the purpose of the branch was to produce fruit that could be used to produce a finished product. For the largest part during the time of the writing of John the expected finished product was juice. To produce juice, the branch must retain the fruit to the point of maturity. Fruit that doesn't come to the point of maturity is useless. The ability of the branch to retain fruit to the point of maturity is dependent upon it abiding in the vine until maturity. By abiding until maturity, the fruit can be used for the intended purpose.

A branch that doesn't produce fruit is useless to the vineyard keeper. A non-producing branch hangs on the vine demanding nutrients that could better be utilized by fruit producing branches. If nutrients are used by producing branches there will be an increase in quantity and quality of fruit and there will be an abundant harvest.

Be certain, this passage isn't about losing one's salvation. The only unpardonable sin is the rejection of Jesus Christ as Savior. This passage is about being disobedient to God to the point we have less or no fruit.

We cannot produce fruit absent the vine. Branches have no roots, no method of obtaining nourishment. Without the vine (Christ), any results of our works are useless. The only outcome for these works is to be burned as waste.

God's purpose for us is to produce much fruit. Don't be a branch that is absorbing precious nutrients and fails to produce. God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbors do. Produce fruit so the bounty of the harvest can be shared with those in need.

Rick Morgan

**Sunday, April 14, 2019 [Day 14] - PALM SUNDAY**

**Matthew 21:1-11**

Just a few days before the horrific events that would soon unfold, Jesus enters Jerusalem in jubilant fashion. As He arrives on a donkey, He is greeted by a great crowd laying palm branches at His feet, calling Him "Hosanna" and proclaiming "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" One would only expect this kind of reception for a King, or someone of great importance. The people of Jerusalem were beginning to recognize something special about Jesus, that He was not just some ordinary man. Could this be the long awaited Messiah? Could this be the one they had been waiting for? For many, they were ready to make Jesus their King. What an exciting and wonderful day that must have been for the people of Israel...for the disciples! However, Jesus knew that this jubilant celebration would be short lived and that those same people shouting His name in praise and exaltation would soon be shouting for Him to be crucified.

Donnie Burrow

**Monday, April 15, 2019 [Day 15]**

**Matt. 21:18-19; Luke 19:41-48**

Have you ever procrastinated studying for an exam? Writing a paper? Working on a project? Doing your taxes? Most of the time in those instances you would find yourself rushed and not prepared to achieve your goal. Ultimately, you missed the mark and lost your chance to succeed.

In this passage of scripture, Jesus is frustrated and brought to tears that God's chosen people were too late. He wanted them to have the way to peace. Soon Jerusalem's enemies would overtake them and their families. They saw Jesus with their own eyes and didn't believe. They had chance after chance to accept Jesus, but instead they aided in His crucifixion.

That is mind blowing to me. God's chosen people would do that to His Son and their Savior. Right?... But hold on a second, doesn't that sound familiar. We have sinned and fallen short before a Holy God. We sin on a regular basis and neglect Jesus of the honor and glory He deserves. We were once separated from the presence of Almighty God, but thanks be to God that we have the opportunity to accept that gift of love and sacrifice that Jesus paid on the cross.

What will be your choice today? Will you quit procrastinating in your relationship with the Lord and follow hard after Him? God has radically given us an opportunity to walk with Him intimately and purposefully. I pray that you choose Jesus today.

Andrew Chandler

**Tuesday, April 16, 2019 [Day 16]**

**Matthew 21:18-22; Matthew 24:1-14; Luke 20:45-21:38**

In these passages, Jesus covers a multitude of topics, some of which include faith, praying, signs of the end times, persecution, persevering until the end, and His Return. He warns us that a time is coming when Christians will be hated because of His name and when friends and families will rise up against one another. Some of us have, in some form or other, already experienced this first-hand in our own lives. There may have been times we've been shunned by our friends or loved ones because of our faith in Christ. Rejection is never an easy thing; but when it comes from those we love, it makes it all the more difficult.

The signs Jesus attested to in Scripture indicate that His return is imminent. It could be any day, any hour. With this in mind, it is imperative that we, as believers, persevere and keep the faith, no matter what. Regardless of what persecution or struggles might await us because of our faith in Christ, we must choose to trust Jesus when He says that "not a hair of [our] head shall be lost" (Luke 21:18). Through the help of the Holy Spirit, we can have confidence that we will never be defeated. Though man may kill our earthly bodies, he cannot take what does not belong to him – our spirit. The Bible makes it clear that as a follower of Christ, our spirit belongs to God. Because of this, no power in Heaven or on earth can ever take us from His Hand.

Donnie Burrow

**Wednesday, April 17, 2019 [Day 17]**

**Matthew 26:14-16, Luke 22:3-6**

Each day we are challenged to take up our cross and follow Jesus. No matter if you have been a Christian for a day or for decades, it is our cross to bear every single day. It is a reminder of the debt He paid and the life He gave to you and me. The moment we forget that is the moment we allow Satan to have a foothold in our minds which will inevitably lead to us falling into temptation. This world has many things to offer us...riches, fame, supposed satisfaction. None of it satisfies nor lasts eternally. Judas Iscariot traded Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. It would be easy to say that we would never do such a thing, but let's test that for just a minute. If you were offered to have every bill and debt paid or given a guarantee of no major illness or cancer for the rest of your life, would you be tempted to take such an offer? When we are not consistently in the truth, we would fall into the trap to such an offer of lies. For what is the benefit to have all of our worldly debts paid or sufferings on earth removed only to have the heaviest debt and greatest suffering to remain? Only through Christ Jesus do we have ultimate relief of the greatest debt and suffering which is eternal separation from God. We cannot avoid death but we don't have to endure its sting. Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life. Don't trade that for anything this world has to offer. Now pick up your cross and let's celebrate the victory we have this Easter.

Robert José

**Thursday April 18, 2019 [Day 18]**

**Matthew 26:20-29; Luke 22:7-20**

The Lord's Supper. What an amazing picture of Christ's love for us. The bread depicting His broken body. The fruit of the vine, His blood shed for us.

At the inaugural Lord's Supper, Christ knew His time was short, but there was still much to accomplish in a short time. No time was wasted. Every word and deed had a specific purpose. What an example for us. Likewise, our time is short and there is much to be done before we rest. For Christ, the short time within which to accomplish His purpose was tied to the eternity of all mankind. Our time is tied to the eternity of those we have the opportunity to be witnesses and minister to.

Christ instituted the Lord's Supper as a means for us to reflect and remember Him and what He did for us. He did not stop there. His closing comment in Matthew 26:29 was a look into the future when He would drink the fruit of the vine new with us in the Father's Kingdom. He knew the cross was not the end. He knew He would come from the grave victorious, securing our eternity with Him. Because He lives, death will not defeat us and the grave will not hold us.

Rick Morgan

**Friday, April 19, 2019 [Day 19] - GOOD FRIDAY**  
**Matthew 26:36-27:61, Luke 20:39; 23:56**

24 Hours

So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" Matthew 27:54

In the fall of 2001 the popular television serial drama "24" debuted to rave reviews. Each season was comprised of 24 episodes, covering 24 hours in the life of Jack Bauer, a government, counter-terrorist agent. Each week's episode would follow Bauer as he attempted to save the nation from an imminent terrorist threat. All the while a clock would count down the time.

In the first four books of the New Testament, which are referred to as The Gospels, is described a 24 hour period of time in the life of Jesus that changed the trajectory of human history. Within a short 24 hours Jesus would be: betrayed by one of His own disciples, judged to be unrighteous by the religious leadership of His time, condemned to die by the same crowd that only days before had worshiped him as king, crucified by an oppressive Roman government and buried in a borrowed tomb. All of this took place within 24 hours.

It is the events of that 24 hours that fulfilled God's plan for our redemption. Long ago the prophets clearly foretold that the Messiah, Jesus, would be betrayed, judged, condemned, and crucified so that we might have God's forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. Our rebellion, our sin, demands punishment; Jesus took that punishment. On the cross, upon declaring that all had been completed, He bowed His head and died. A brokenhearted band of Jesus' followers buried His body in a borrowed tomb. The payment for our sins, my sin, had been made. Now, the stage was set for the one defining moment that would change all eternity...

What is good about Good Friday? Why isn't it called Bad Friday? Because out of the appallingly bad came what was inexpressibly good. And the good trumps the bad, because though the bad was temporary, the good is eternal.  
Randy Alcorn

Greg Hooper

**Saturday, April 20, 2019 [Day 20]**

**Matthew 27:57-66**

Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy member of the ruling body in Jerusalem, known as the Sanhedrin, who was looking for the coming of the kingdom and who had not consented to the Sanhedrin's condemnation of Jesus. We know from John's account that he was assisted in burying Jesus by Nicodemus, also a member of the Sanhedrin. What irony that both men – secret disciples – were willing to come into the light regarding their association with Jesus at precisely the time that His closest disciples had fled and just when one might assume this new movement had come to an end.

In Jesus' day, executed criminals were buried in an area far outside the city. Inexplicably however, Pilate turned the body over to Joseph and Nicodemus, who treated the body as royalty, providing a new tomb created for a person of great wealth. Even more, the body was wrapped in "about seventy-five pounds" of spices (John 19:39) – something else only afforded the wealthy and the royal.

Pilate was unwilling to take any chances that Jesus' rag-tag followers might come steal the body to perpetuate the myth of His rising from the dead. So, not only was the large stone rolled into place, but a Roman seal was placed upon it. And not only the seal but a Roman guard was placed as well – not a lone soldier but a sixteen-man unit under strict rules. For a single guard to fall asleep insured the execution of the entire unit.

No one would get to Jesus from the outside.

If they had only known...

Ken Holland

## **Sunday, April 21, 2019 [Day 21] - EASTER SUNDAY**

**Matt 28:1-10; Luke 24:1-49; 1 Cor 15:3-8**

Easter Sunday has arrived! We join the celebration of all creation that rejoices in God raising Jesus Christ from the dead. Maybe you are celebrating your first Easter as a believer or maybe you have celebrated sixty Easters as a believer. Regardless of how many Easters you have celebrated, as modern-day believers we have the luxury of the whole story of Easter because of the New Testament Gospels. We can buy new outfits, plan special meals, travel to be with family and friends who are celebrating. All those things are appropriate and help make Easter special. But there is more. "More what" you ask? More of the story to which we must connect. To really appreciate Easter, we must connect with the transformation of emotions that took place on Resurrection Sunday. Fear was turned to faith. Confusion was turned to celebration. Hopelessness was turned to joy. Death was turned to life. Those people we read about in the Resurrection Story were not looking back at the whole story like we do, they were "caught" in the fear, confusion, and hopelessness of the moment. There was no "rest of the story" as far as they could tell. Dig deeper. Connect with the women and disciples in these resurrection stories to experience the radical, emotional transformation of Easter.

Terry Bostick



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