

Easter

introduction

Different parts of the world celebrate Easter in different ways in different weather conditions. In Japan, the Easter season means cherry blossoms. In Central and South America, Easter means rain and a lot of it. In most of Europe, Easter means cold weather as spring has only shown hints of arriving. In America, the Easter holiday is associated with springtime, Easter lilies and beautiful flowers. Although we may associate Easter with many things, the believers of the world think of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ when they think of Easter. (Read Mark 16:1-8.)

message

1. **What was the purpose of Christ's resurrection?** The Bible says that Jesus Christ rose from the dead as an expression of the Father's love. Jesus died on the cross willingly, and the Father—out of His great mercy for us—raised Christ so that we too might one day do the same. Jesus is now in heaven preparing a place for those who follow Him. He desires that we spend eternity with Him.
2. **What is the power of the resurrection?** (Read Ephesians 1:19-23.) Paul prayed that we would know the power of the Resurrection, and then He defines what that power is like. The Bible says the same power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells inside of those who believe. This means that the power of God, made available through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, will change our lives when we accept Him as Savior and Lord. Throughout the world, the lives of men and women have changed incredibly after hearing and positively responding to the message of the Resurrection. Wherever the gospel has been preached and received, people dress differently, take better care of their belongings and improve their attitudes. New believers always have a desire to see others share in their new faith.

salvation appeal

Today you have an amazing opportunity. If you understand the purpose and power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you can become a world changer. You must, however, be filled with God's power, allowing Him to use you to change your world. "Christ has risen for you" is the message we must deliver to our friends. First you must make a decision to follow him yourself.

challenge

Think of one or two friends who need to hear the real Easter message. Don't just talk with them about the weather or invite them to church. Share the purpose and power of the Resurrection with them. Let your friends be part of this message that is changing lives throughout the world. You will find great joy when your friends say, "I accepted the risen Christ as Savior." It will be no meaningless statement. A life will have been changed. Jesus is Lord! Happy Easter!

