

EASTER

A King Like No Other

Andy Stanley

Note: The following content is a raw transcript and has not been edited for grammar, punctuation, and word usage.

0:00:00.5 Andy Stanley: And so I absolutely love Easter. Sometimes people say, "Well, Andy when Easter rolls around it's the same story all over again. I'm like, "Yeah, but I absolutely love, love, love this story." But the thing is to understand the full implications... In fact, to understand the personal implications of the Easter story requires us to pause in the very, very early moments of the story. The early moments of the story that we tend to rush by whenever we read the story. The early moments, when sometimes people read the story to us. Or perhaps the early moments when you've heard the story preached about or taught about in church.

0:00:37.0 AS: So I wanna take you for just a moment, back to that moment. That moment when Jesus has just been crucified. He's hanging on the cross, people are staring. There's a large crowd. In the back of the crowd are the disciples that have not fled the city. In the back of the crowd is his mother. In the back of the crowd are the women who'd followed him from Galilee. But let me tell you who wasn't there. When Jesus was crucified, there were no Christians, there was no church, there was no Bible, and there were no believers. When Jesus was crucified, all there were left were dozens of Galileans who were broken-hearted, overwhelmed with sorrow and confused. Their leaders, their religious leaders had conspired with Rome, their enemy to murder... To falsely accuse and try and crucify the best person they'd ever known. Someone who was not supposed to die. Someone who they had come to believe was God's ultimate and final Messiah, God's final King. And yet, in less than 24 hours he was arrested, he was tried, and he was crucified, and they were in shock. Because this was completely unexpected.

0:01:54.5 AS: In fact, they thought... His closest followers who were in Jerusalem at the time, they thought they were on the verge of winning. Because just four days before this... Four days before this, they had come into the city of Jerusalem. And as they got closer and closer to the city, the crowds that followed Jesus and his disciples had grown and grown and grown. By the time they get there, there are people outside the city walls who are welcoming Jesus in as if he's a conquering hero. As if he's some sort of military general who's just brought glory to their city and glory to their nation. And then it become... First it's religious. It's hosanna, hosanna, hosanna. And then it becomes political, Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes to the name the Lord, and blessed is the king. And there's so much momentum and there's so much excitement. The men and women who have been following Jesus for... In some cases two or three years are realizing this is the moment we've waited for. This is when he's gonna take off his rabbinic robe and proclaim himself as king of the Messiah, that we've... The long awaited Messiah.

0:02:52.4 AS: They were on the verge of winning, and then suddenly, unexpectedly, it's over. And he's hanging on a cross. Now, it's important to know that the goal of crucifixion in ancient times was not simply death. There were quicker and much easier ways to kill a man. The goal of crucifixion was two-fold. It was terror for the community to keep the community under control, and it was oblivion for the person who was crucified. The goal of crucifixion was that basically, it's like you never ever... It's like, you never even happened.

0:03:28.2 AS: And the remains of a crucified body were taken off and put in a dump and were ultimately probably rotted and then whatever was left were eaten by wild animals. But for a price... For a price you could bribe sometimes a