

# E A S T E R

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## **Beginning Again** *Andy Stanley*

**Scripture:** John 20:1-2, 101-18

### **Introduction**

Easter harnesses our faith to something that *happened* rather than to something we merely *believe*. The foundation of Christianity is not a belief. Christians don't simply believe something is true. We don't believe we are to behave a certain way. We believe something happened, something that addresses our greatest fear and consequently diminishes our fear of loss.

If you are **not** a Jesus follower/Christian, I'm sure you have a good reason. If you and I were having a discussion about why you should consider it or reconsider it, here's what I would say:

- The issue is not: *Is the Bible true?* There were Jesus followers 100+ years before there was a Bible. There were Jesus followers who never heard of Adam, Eve, or Noah.
- The issue is not the embarrassing history of the church.
- The issue is not the behavior, values, or discrimination of Christians you've met.

What I would focus your attention on is:

The **Event** . . . that started it all . . . the event we gather to celebrate today: the **resurrection of Jesus**.

Jesus followers believed Jesus rose from the dead many, many years before there was a Bible. People believed Jesus rose from the dead beginning the morning he rose from the dead. And they did exactly what any of us who had seen a man arise from the dead would do. They talked about it, and they wrote about it.

We **believe** Jesus rose from the dead because . . .

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, James, Paul . . . **Nero**.