

Easter

WITH US

The Day No One Believed

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Scripture: John 6:66, 68–69; Mark 1:15; 15:43–47, 16:1–7

Introduction

[Easter's message is more relevant to the modern world than ever before. Everybody is sitting up straight and paying attention. The events of Easter are relevant because they address our greatest fears, which are front and center.]

[We wonder if we're going to be all right. Is my family going to be all right? Does God know about this? Does he care? Does God hear my prayers?]

[Perhaps the only time in history the events of Easter were more relevant was the first Easter. Followers of Jesus look back. We have something to hang our hope on. But 2,000 ago, when Jesus died, hope died with him.]

When Jesus died, **hope** died.

[When Jesus died, nobody believed he was the Son of God, Messiah, or Savior of the world.]

There were no **Christians** because there was no **Christ**.

[There was a brokenhearted mother and there were bewildered fear-filled disciples, but no Jesus followers. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took Jesus's lifeless body from the cross, placed it in Joseph's tomb, and headed home.]

No one was planning to keep the **dream** alive or the **movement** moving.

[If Jesus couldn't keep himself alive, what was the point?]

Jesus wasn't **who** he **claimed** to be.

[That was the issue. Jesus's teaching wasn't the driving force of his movement. The outrageous claims he made about himself kept the band together and drove religious leaders crazy. He claimed to have the authority to forgive sin. He said he was greater than Moses, the temple, and the Sabbath.]

[Peter and the disciples didn't choose to stay with Jesus because of what he taught but despite it. In John 6, we read about the famous incident when Jesus fed 5,000 people with

