



The Easter Question Andy Stanley

Scripture: John 3:16–17; 6:68–69; 11:25; 14:9; 20:1–8; Luke 24:11; 1 Corinthians 15:13–14; Acts 3:19

[As we pause today to celebrate Easter, I want to invite you back in time to the moments just before the first Easter, before there was an Easter and before anyone imagined such a thing.]

[My reason for taking you back to this particular moment in time is that it is perhaps the most compelling reason for why you should consider becoming a follower of Jesus or why you should reconsider becoming a Jesus follower if you gave it up once you grew up. If that's your story, and if I were to hear your story, I imagine I would respond by saying:]

“Who could **blame** you?”

[If that had happened to me, if I had experienced that, if church people had treated someone I love that way, or if that's how the Bible was used or abused, who could blame you? Who needs religion if that's what it ultimately leads to. Unfortunately...]

Bad **Christians** happen to good people.

[And it leaves a bad taste in our mouths.]

[Or perhaps you just grew weary of hearing, “The Bible says... the Bible says.” Because you grew up and you discovered what else the Bible says. And you just don't buy it anymore. Again, if I were to hear your story, who could blame you?]

[So for the next few minutes, I would like to take you back in time to a moment before there were any Christians, any churches, and before there was a Bible. It's a moment in time when a couple of dozen mostly Galilean men and women found themselves wrestling with similar feelings of mistrust, distrust, and disgust.]

[On the afternoon of Jesus's crucifixion...]

Joseph of Arimathea / Nicodemus

[... two prominent citizens in Jerusalem went to Pilate to ask permission to remove Jesus's lifeless body from the cross. Victims of crucifixion were normally left to rot. The goal of

