

Week 1: Easter Sunday

Series: Love Reigns

Key Verses: Matthew 27:32–42; Matthew 28:18–20

Speaker: Dr. Justin Hardcastle

Big Idea: As Jesus was being crucified, the soldiers mocked him by placing a crown of thorns on his head and placing a sign over his head that read “King of the Jews.” They did not see him as the true King who rules and reigns. After Jesus’ resurrection, he revealed himself to his disciples and because he defeated death, he claimed all authority over heaven and earth. It was Jesus’ love for us that held him on the cross. His love reigns in our lives when we put our faith, hope, and trust in him.

There Can Only Be One _____

For 33 years, Jesus Christ walked the earth while serving the hungry, healing the broken, and delivering the oppressed. At that time, the ruler of the Ancient Near East was Rome. The Jewish religious leaders and the Roman centurions worked together to have Jesus arrested.

- **READ:** Matthew 27:32-42
- The crucifixion of Jesus is marked by ridicule and disbelief.
- None of them understood that the true test of Jesus’ power and authority was not in his ability to save himself from crucifixion, but in his ability to overcome the death that the crucifixion would result in.

Love Overcame _____

Three days after Jesus was crucified and laid in the tomb, to everyone’s shock and amazement, he appeared in bodily form to many of the disciples and others.

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- Easter is the day that Jesus was given all authority on heaven and on earth.
- His final instruction for all of his followers was to go into the whole world and make disciples.

Let Love Reign _____

Today, if you consider yourself a Christian, this instruction has been given to you as well. You are to be a part of making disciples. The Greek word used in this passage for disciple is a form of the word *mathetes*, which means learner or student. To be a disciple is to be in a life-long process of becoming more like Jesus.

- Over time, we learn to live generous lives, we learn to forgive, we learn to serve others, we learn to practice self-control, and we learn to be people of peace.
- The final reminder that we are given by Jesus before he ascends into heaven, is that he will always be with us until the very end.

This Easter, may you see the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the proof of his love, and may you let that love reign in your life.

What Is God Speaking to me today?:

- Easter is the day that Jesus was given all authority on heaven and on earth.
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