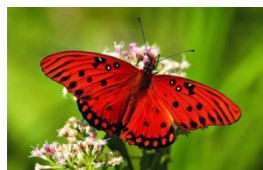


**Christ Community Covenant Church  
Easter Changes Everything  
Pastor Dave Scherrer – April 16, 2017**

**Children's Moment**

**What do you love about Easter?**

Caterpillars and chrysalis and butterflies are a pretty natural Easter word picture don't you think. We have that beautiful butterfly on the cover of our bulletin but it had to come from somewhere. I think part of the mystery and intrigue of the butterfly is that they are so beautiful when they come out but kinda ugly when they start. I did a search of ugly caterpillars and got these images.



Have any of you ever seen a caterpillar turn into a butterfly? Check this out!  
Que up the caterpillar metamorphosis (**video**)

And of course Jesus had to spend some time in his chrysalis too...



We have a beautiful butterfly on the cover of our bulletin this morning. Can anyone say why a butterfly might remind them of Easter? There is a big difference between a caterpillar becoming a butterfly and Jesus' resurrection. What do you think that might be? The difference is that when a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, it just changes shape and of course that is really amazing. But in the resurrection of Jesus, Jesus had died and then came back to life immortal, never to die again. That had never happened before. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, eventually he was actually going to die and stay dead. But not Jesus. He is alive today as much as He was two thousand years ago! That is what makes Easter so amazing!!

## Sermon The Love of Easter Changes Everything

Over the last several weeks of our Easter series here at 4Cs we have been talking about the love that changes everything. Three weeks ago we explored the love of God that washed over the disciples in the **upper room** when he **washed their feet**. Last week we talked about the love of God that was manifest in the **garden of Gethsemane** when he obediently **drank the cup of wrath**. On this past Friday we centered on the life changing love found in the **old rugged cross**. But today . . . But today, the most amazing love of all! The whole love of God rolled into one amazing love. The love that defeats death and promises to never, no never, leave us! **Resurrection, Love**. This **Resurrection Love** changes everything in the world. You know the story I think . . . This is from The Gospel of Luke, chapter 24 . . .

**Luke 24:1-12** But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, certain women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup> And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” <sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, <sup>11</sup> but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

So let's go back to idea of **Resurrection Love** from a moment ago. You might ask . . .

### What is this love all about?

Well first of all in reading again the story we can see that it came **suddenly and unexpectedly**.

### Suddenly and Unexpectedly

**It caught the women by surprise.** Luke here focusses on ‘the women’ Mary the mother of Jesus, Joanna, Mary Magdalene and the other women—no one would have gone to the tomb with the spices to prepare the body on their own, in the dark. They needed to roll away the stone, to unwrap, embalm and rewrap the body. **This was a team task**. These were women who had travelled with Jesus. Earlier Luke tells us that many of the women had provided for him and his ministry from their own means. **These were the women who had not deserted Jesus—the ones who, when the men fled, remained standing at the cross**. These were the ones who had witnessed the final brutalities of his death. When they came to the tomb they **expected to find death and indignity—to find a broken body**, not even given the dignity of proper preparation for burial. But the unexpected surprise was life in place of death. What did the angel say . . .? ‘He is not here—he is risen!’ He is **no longer the broken, bloodied, mangled and undignified body that you were expecting—he is alive!** That was God’s unexpected surprise.

**And it caught Peter and John by surprise.** Peter and John were called to the tomb by Mary—what were they expecting? I think they were expecting all their **disappointment to be confirmed**, for the final seal to be put on their despair. Perhaps for Peter, to be confronted with the result of his own failure and betrayal. That’s what they expected.

But the **unexpected surprise was hope**. That was the last thing they expected to find that morning. They expected despair - not hope. That is interesting too because John comments in his gospel account - **‘We had not yet understood the Scriptures; we had not understood that this was foretold.’** They had not understood Jesus - even though he told them at least three times that the Son of Man would be handed over—and yet on the third day would be raised again ‘according to the Scriptures...’ They

couldn't have been ready, but **what they saw was not death but hope**. They saw death clothes lying there but no body. Obviously he wasn't stolen – a thief wouldn't have taken the time to un-wrap Jesus. They saw that the shroud that had been draped around Jesus' body laying there as if it were still in place, where his body had been—and that the head cloth that had been wrapped around his head was still in the place where his head should have been, but instead laying there carefully folded. This body had not been stolen! So up swells the hope . . . Could it be that he had been raised from death?

But interestingly, though this was a complete surprise, on the other hand it was absolutely the most predicted event in human history. This love was planned and predicted and spot on purpose.

### **Planned, Predicted and spot on Purpose!**

Psalms 16, Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, the sign of Jonah, the Passover meal itself, all of these and dozens Old Testament Bible verses point to a planned, predicted purposeful passion and then an equally expected resurrection.

In the gospel of Matthew we see the prediction.

**Matthew 16:21** From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

And this is where we remember that Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "You're talking crazy Jesus, you gotta quick scaring us with this nonsense. This shall never happen to you."<sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me." The Father and I have a plan and even though I like you no one and nothing is going to get in my way. Even when he is being mocked and beaten, Jesus was all about the plan. The Jewish authorities and the Roman Governor thought they were in charge, thought that they were leading these events. But that wasn't in the least true. Jesus was in complete control of every moment.

**John 10:17-18** For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.<sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

What an amazing love! But you still have to wonder – "What was the purpose of this love?"

### **And what was the purpose of this love?**

I think the purpose of this love was to save and to transform and to transport;

### **To Save, Transform and Transport!**

We know he came to save . . .

**1 John 4:14** Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

**Luke 19:10**<sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

But he also came to transform our lives; to give us ultimate and eternal purpose. To bring us out of darkness and into light, to take our old dead heart and give a new heart that longs first for God. He transforms our motives and our goals. He transforms our morals and our behaviors. And he transforms our existence from just staying alive to living with zest and excitement. Jesus said -

**John 10:9-10** I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

And he transports us, to a new place. The Bible says that when we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved (Romans 10:10). At that moment, Colossians 3 tells us that right then our lives are hidden with him in Heaven. In some mysterious way, we are transported directly to His side. But not just transported to Heaven, but we are also transported with an altogether new relationship with God . . . We go from enemies of God to being His beloved children -

**John 1:12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

So, how do you get this love?

**How do you get this love?**

Actually that is pretty straightforward, we get it **free – but it must be wholeheartedly and personally**

**Freely, Wholeheartedly, and Personally**

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When it comes to receiving this Love that changes everything we must be wholehearted and give ourselves completely to this Savior and King. Jesus makes no room for slackers. Jesus himself reminds us . . .

**Mark 12:30** And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

As you know Jesus is not a casual Savior and King, he does not expect us to be a casual follower. It's all or nothing, in or out, alive to God or not. But when we finally personally yield to his rule and reign in our lives, **we are moved from death to life. This is Resurrection Love.**

What a promise! A child of God, welcome in his arms, loved unconditionally. Now that is a love that lives. That is Resurrection Love. His love changes everything.

**His Love Changes Everything**

[Prayer]

**Benediction**

And now, may the God of peace, who brought back again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, all that is pleasing to him. May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen you in hope, enrich you with his love, and fill you with joy in the faith. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.