



# Growing Faith

## 04 - Easter | 26 March 2021

### Thought for the time

## An Easter Message

Written by Destiny Owen

Hey guys, I hope you are all good! I'm Destiny and I'm a dancer and singer from Manchester, currently working for LIGHT (home of LZ7) - and I'm in their new band Saintz!

It must feel a bit weird coming back into school? I just wanna say props to you all for getting through this and still studying. It's definitely been a **hard** year BUT things are looking hopeful... and it's **EASTER!**

So I have a quick question... have you ever felt alone... Isolated... left out from your friends? I know I have, especially this year during Covid-19. I was thinking, whilst reading the book of Matthew, Jesus went through something similar to this. It really hit me how alone and isolated Jesus must've felt in the run up to Easter but as he knew it, the run up to his death.

Most of you will know some of the disciples began to reject him. During the night Judas set him up to be taken away by the soldiers. I couldn't even imagine my best girl mates completely forgetting who I was just out of fear?! (Peter later denies him three times as well!!)

However, even though Jesus looks alone and helpless he actually says **'Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?'**. At any point in this whole Easter story, Jesus had the power to say "Send your angels God, I don't want to do this!" But NO! Jesus CHOSE to carry on, because he knew what needed to happen!

He allowed himself to be arrested, mocked, tortured. He allowed himself to feel completely alone (this wasn't Boris forcing it upon him). It says in Matthew 26, **"They spat in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, 'Prophesy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?'**

He's then nailed to the cross. The most innocent man alive! The most powerful thing is Jesus' last choice. It says **'when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, HE GAVE UP HIS SPIRIT'** - he chose death. You know what a choice like that comes from LOVE.

Jesus died a criminals death but three days later he rose again!

So what does that mean for us today?

1. God adores you. He wants the best for you and to be in a relationship with you!
2. We've definitely messed up. We've tried do life without him.
3. The consequence of our mistakes should be death but actually God sent his son Jesus in our place so we can be **FORGIVEN!**
4. Like Jesus CHOSE to go through all this, will YOU CHOOSE to believe him and what the bible says?

Let's not forget what really happened! Let's be a confident generation who chooses to give our lives for the one who gave us his all!

**'Whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again, it becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving eternal life'**

John 4:14



### Teenager's Tip

## Be Thankful

By Daniel Ley, Year 9.

**'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV



We all have days when it is really hard.

On days like this, it can be hard to just keep going, never mind be thankful. But God wouldn't tell us to do something we can't, so it has to be possible. So how do we do it?

We can do it by finding one small thing to thank God for. It could be that you had breakfast, or that you woke up today.

There's power in finding small things to thank God for. As you focus on that thing, others will come to mind. The more you focus on the things that you can be thankful for, the more thankful you'll become. As you focus on being thankful, the easier it is to be happy. This is true for people who follow Jesus and those who don't.

**Choose today to find small ways to be thankful.**

## Our School Song

Why not sing along to 'When I Survey' as we worship together.



## Prayer for Easter

By Mr Jason Clemson

Father God we give you hearty thanks for the gifts of life, family, and friends.

As we go about our busy lives this Easter time let us remember the greatest gift of all that you gave to us in Your only begotten Son Jesus Christ.

Let us remember the sacrifice he gave for us all in atonement for all our sins, that dreadful day on Golgotha, His painful chastisement and brutal crucifixion all endured for the love of all mankind.

The wonderous events of the resurrection 3 days later and ultimately his glorious ascension into Heaven to take his rightful place besides you

Lord you gave us your only Son as a reminder of Your love for us. The veil of darkness transformed to the brightest light. The most dreadful end became the most beautiful beginning. The depths of despair fade to reveal hope everlasting. The curse of death defeated by eternal life.

Almighty God, grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

## Church Support Easter Services

Please visit these church websites to see when their Easter services are taking place:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship: [Website](#)

St John's and St Augustine's Church, Huncoat: [YouTube channel](#)

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Rishton: [Facebook Page](#)

St. John's Church, Baxenden: [Website](#)

Peel Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

All Saints Church, Clayton-le-Moors: [Facebook Page](#)

St James' Church, Clitheroe: [Website](#)

Burnley Life Church: [Website](#)


## Song for the Reflection







**“If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”**

1 Corinthians 15:19



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