

It's Passover Season - What does that mean?

- ▶ Come find out!
- ▶ We're having a Seder meal
- ▶ Next Sunday April 13th
- ▶ Right after the worship service
- ▶ See Ashley for food signup

So much going on around us, even in our own communities

- ▶ Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom. . .
¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your
unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all
our days.
- ▶ Psalm 90, NIV

Preparing for Easter

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11, NIV

It's Easter Season, or, the Lenten Season

- ▶ Started March 5th
- ▶ Observed by liturgical churches
- ▶ Usually a form of self-discipline
- ▶ A time for giving up things, like . . .
- ▶ I'm really good at giving up!

How is your heart?

▶ ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”

▶ Matthew 15, NIV

The hardest person to live with is:

- ▶ YOU!
- ▶ Because we have a heart problem,
- ▶ We are the problem!
- ▶ We need a total makeover
- ▶ From the inside out

So, God's gotta do something!

▶ ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

▶ Ezekiel 26, NIV

You can only get the new heart
through faith in Jesus!

- ▶ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.
 - ▶ John 3.3, NIV

Grow in Grace

- ▶¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.
 - ▶ 2 Peter 3.18, NIV

After you receive Christ, it still takes time to 'grow up'

- ▶ You are totally saved the moment you put your faith in Jesus
- ▶ Becoming more like Jesus is a lifelong process
- ▶ But all of us need to 'grow in grace'

With all that's going on in the world right now . .

- ▶ People are looking for some kind of peace of mind
- ▶ People want to know what is true
- ▶ The answer is Jesus. Only Jesus

Want to know The Truth?

▶⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

▶ John 14, NIV

This Easter season:

- ▶ Take time with your Lord to find his peace daily
- ▶ Reach out to someone who might be hurting
- ▶ Invite them to church
- ▶ Share where you found peace!

EASTER means HOPE!

- ▶ Hope is not a granted wish or a favor performed; no it is far greater than that. It is a zany, unpredictable dependence on a God who loves to surprise us out of our socks. - Max Lucado

▶ ¹³ **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

▶ **Romans 15, NIV**