

April 1, 2018

EASTER

INSIDE OUT

LUKE 5:32 (NASB) "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." (TLB) "My purpose is to invite sinners to turn from their sins, not to spend my time with those who think themselves already good enough." (MSG) "I'm here inviting outsiders, not insiders...an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out."

TRUTH: The message of Easter is that Jesus Christ came to meet the universal human need for "change."

INSIGHT: We don't become better people by trying harder.

INSIGHT: Real, fundamental life change begins with your mind, not your body (Proverbs 23:7).

TWO BIBLICAL TRUTHS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER:

I. ONLY GOD CAN MAKE A NEW YOU (Romans 12:2 NLT).

TRUTH: Change begins by opening your mind to the possibility that God is real, He exists, He loves you and wants to help you.

*Ephesians 4:18 (TLB) "Many are far away from the life of God. They have shut their minds against Him."

Three life events close our minds to God:

1. Hurt
2. Pride
3. Fear

TRUTH: If you want to change, you've got to open up to God.

II. ONLY GOD'S GRACE CAN TRANSFORM YOU.

TRUTH: Grace is the power God gives you to make the changes you couldn't have made on your own.

INVITATION:

You will never deserve God's grace. You will never be good enough, and you can't buy it. The grace of God is a gift of His love. All you can do is accept it as a gift. It cost God the life and suffering of His Son, but it's a free gift to you! "God gives grace to the humble. So, say a quiet yes to God, and He will be there in no time" (James 4:6-7 MSG).