



Not As I Thought
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April 6/7, 2019

Many of us know Easter as a day where we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. But to truly understand this miracle we need to understand the pre-story. In a story, the start is important. You are laying down the foundation of where the story is going. Great beginnings give you a hint on where you are headed.

For centuries people had been waiting for a Messiah, maybe to be more specific, the Jewish people were waiting for their Messiah, someone to save the people, many thought it would be a political leader.

John the Baptist was the first prophet that God had sent in a long time. John gets things restarted with the idea that the Messiah is coming.

Are you the Prophet we are expecting? John 1:21 (NLT)

Repent, for the kingdom of God is near. Matthew 3:2 (NIV)

Repent - “Change the Way You Think.”

Look! The Lamb of God who comes to take away the sin of the world. John 1:29 (NLT)

I did not recognize Him as the Messiah. John 1:31 (NLT)

Jesus is closer than you think.

Where have you been missing Jesus?

The disciples of John the Baptist told John about everything Jesus was doing. So John called for two of his disciples, and he sent them to the Lord to ask Him, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”
Luke 7:18-19 (NLT)

Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Luke 7:22 (NIV)

And tell him, ‘God blesses those who are not offended by me.’ Luke 7:23 (ESV)

- **Jesus loves you more than you know.**
 - **What you are going through right now doesn’t always relate to how God feels about you.**
 - **How God feels about you is best reflected with what happened at Easter, not what is happening right now?**