



## Patent Leather Shoes, Easter Baskets, and Jesus

### A Reflection for the Holy Season

I remember the white patent leather shoes with tiny heels and a bow on the front. The straw bonnet with its satin ribbon and the elastic string tucked under my chin. The silky white gloves that stopped at my wrist. And of course, the pastel dress with the crinoline slip that made it wide and fluffy – the true star of the day.

Early Easter mornings meant sitting in the kitchen while our mother straightened my hair with a hot comb and fresh Crisco from the blue and white can that lived on the stove. If I held still, my reward was the beautiful curls cascading down my back, with ponytails and colorful ribbons on the sides.

Our father whisked me off to church while our mother began Easter dinner. Music filled our home – Mom and Dad met in the church choir, my uncle played the organ, and my aunt directed the choir.

As I grew older, I organized the neighborhood Easter egg hunt. We dyed eggs the night before and filled baskets for every child on the block. To this day, I don't know how our mother – widowed and raising eight children – managed to provide enough eggs, jellybeans, marshmallow treats, and chocolate bunnies for all of us and the neighbors too. Remarkable.



But woven through all those childhood moments is the true source of my joy: Jesus. Even before I understood it, my parents were laying a foundation of faith that would blossom years later into a real relationship with the One Easter is truly about.

### **Easter, Ishtar, and the Truth That Matters**

I won't debate whether Christians should participate in egg hunts or whether we should call the day "Easter" or "Resurrection Sunday." I've heard the claims linking Easter to the pagan goddess Ishtar, but a deeper look at history reveals something different:

"The comparison between Easter and Ishtar is not ancient at all—it appears to have been first popularized in the late 19th to early 20th century, especially by Alexander Hislop in his 1853 book *The Two Babylons*. Modern scholars overwhelmingly reject his claims as linguistically and historically inaccurate." – Biblehub.com

We live in an age where the authenticity of the Bible is constantly challenged by self-appointed experts online claiming it has been tampered with or made up. Yet none of this shakes my faith. Relationship with God – not religion – is what anchors me. The Spirit of Truth lives within believers, and Scripture promises, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

When Jesus was delivered to Pontius Pilate to be crucified, He said, "I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth." Pilate responded, "What is truth?" (John 18:37–38). Pilate wasn't a Jew but a Roman prefect, yet he sought ways to release Jesus, recognizing that the religious leaders had handed Him over out of envy (Matthew 27:18). So I'm not surprised when modern voices deny Jesus' deity or question His crucifixion and resurrection. But for those of us who believe, "the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation." (Romans 1:16)

### **The Good News Still Stands**

Jesus is real.

He is risen.

He is alive.

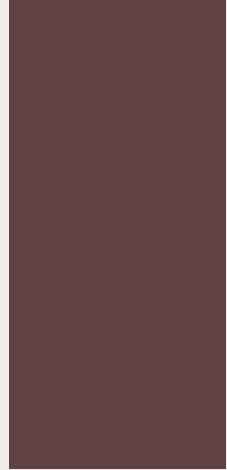
Because He lives, I can walk in truth and abundance now – and in eternal life to come. The Holy Spirit, Who is the Spirit of Truth within me confirms this again and again.

And honestly, I don't believe Jesus is concerned about whether I call this holiday Easter or Resurrection Sunday. If I choose to prepare a traditional Easter dinner, I will. I might even put together an Easter basket – just not with the bunny. That's far too much chocolate.

A most blessed and Holy Season to you all.

### **Closing Prayer**

Father, thank You for the precious memories that remind us of Your goodness and the grace that has carried us through every season. As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, anchor our hearts in the truth that He is alive, He is present, and He is our eternal hope. Let the joy of the risen Christ fill our homes, our families, and our spirits. Strengthen our faith, deepen our relationship with You, and help us walk in the freedom that only Your truth can give. In Jesus' name, Amen.



## Upcoming Bible Study Notes

### **Saturday, April 4, 2026 | 7:00 PM**

We will gather this Saturday evening for our weekly Bible Study as we continue exploring the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 12.

We will also continue our discussion of the book **Fervent by Priscilla Shirer**, as we learn practical and powerful strategies for strengthening our prayer lives and standing firm in spiritual warfare.

### **Scripture Focus**

“So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.” — Mark 12:43-44





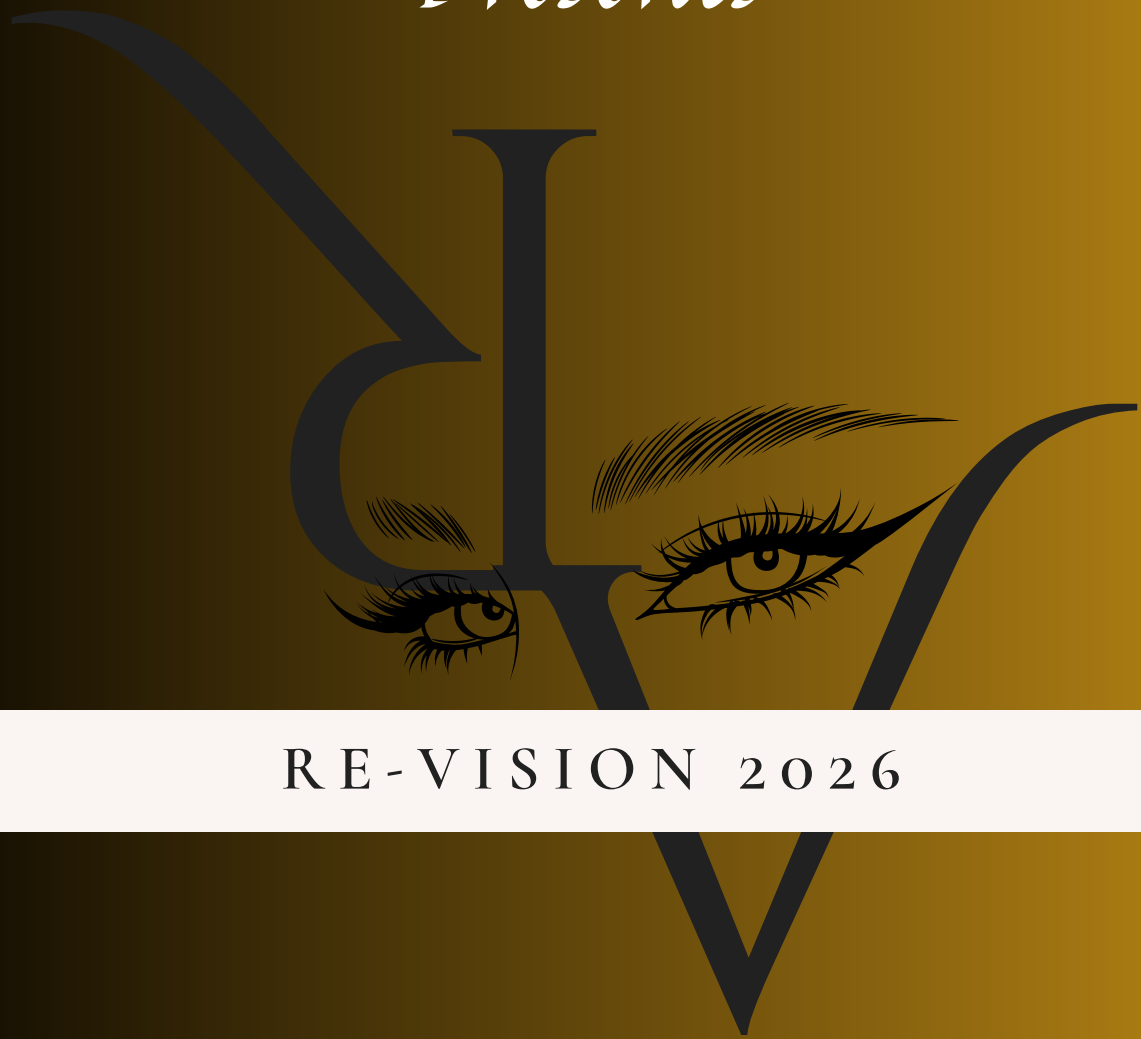
*Saturday Night Bible Study*  
*April 4, 2026*

*Agenda:*

- 7:00 - 7:25 Mark Chapter 12*  
*7:25 - 7:50 Book Discussion*  
*7:50 - 8:00 Time of Prayer*



*Dawn E. Collins Ministries*  
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A time of Worship, Inspiration, Healing, and Transformation.

Be on the lookout. Full details coming soon!

*“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.” - 2 Corinthians 4:18*