

The One Thing

An Easter Reflection from Pastor Cindy H. Carr

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Every Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

But this year at River of Life Ministries, we asked a different question:

What is the one thing that keeps people from experiencing God?

As I've walked with God over the years, I've noticed something. Before a message fully forms in my heart, a simple phrase often begins to rise to the surface. This Easter, that phrase was:

The one thing.

Because for many people, it's not that they've completely rejected God. More often, there is simply something standing in the way.

For some, it's shame:

"I'm not good enough."

For others, it's doubt:

"I'm not even sure what I believe."

Sometimes it's hurt from past experiences with people or church.

Sometimes it's distraction, exhaustion, disappointment, or the feeling that God seems far away.

And increasingly in today's world, it's confusion.

There are so many voices, opinions, arguments, and competing versions of who God is that many people quietly wonder:

“How do I even know what’s true anymore?”

That’s why one of the simplest and most important truths we shared this Easter was this:

If you want to know what God is like—look at Jesus.

Jesus showed us the heart of God clearly:

full of truth,
full of compassion,
and always willing to move toward broken people rather than away from them.

The Easter story is ultimately about barriers being removed.

In the Old Testament temple, a veil separated people from the presence of God. It represented distance, separation, and the reality that something stood between humanity and God.

But when Jesus died on the cross, Scripture tells us that veil was torn from top to bottom.

Not bottom to top—as if humanity were trying to climb its way to God.

Top to bottom.

God reaching down to us.

That moment reminds us of something powerful:

Jesus removed every barrier.

The Apostle Paul described it this way:

“God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, not counting people’s sins against them.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:19

That means God is not standing at a distance waiting for people to become perfect before coming near Him.

The invitation of Easter is much simpler than that.

Bring your questions.

Bring your doubts.

Bring your hurt.

Bring your confusion.

Bring your “one thing.”

Because the way has already been opened.

At River of Life Ministries, our prayer is not simply that people attend a service, but that they discover a real relationship with God—one that changes how they live, love, and see themselves.

What’s the one thing holding you back?

And what if Jesus already made a way through it?

What if the only thing truly separating you from God is simply never taking that step toward Him?

Not having all the answers.

Not becoming perfect first.

Not fixing every broken place in your life.

Just taking one honest step of faith toward the God who has already been reaching toward you all along.

Because that’s the beauty of Easter.

The veil has already been torn.

The barrier has already been removed.

And sometimes the greatest breakthrough begins with one simple thing:

Saying yes to God and letting Him lead the rest of the way.

Featured Song:

“The Jesus I Know Now” by Brandon Lake and Lainey Wilson

Songwriters: Brandon Lake, Emily Weisband, Lainey Wilson, Luke Laird

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zU4RqJ8jfBc&list=RDzU4RqJ8jfBc&start_radio=1

— Pastor Cindy H. Carr

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