

**So Loved  
Easter 2019  
Newport News Campus  
04/20/19**

**Opening**

-favorite Easter candy from childhood?

-Easter Egg hunts...preparation for later in life when trying actually figure out when Easter is going happen!!!!

**Introduction (History of Easter)**

-over 3,000 years ago, first Passover

- Plagues...
- Israelites just as rebellious (behavior after exodus)
- If willing to accept God's sacrifice = forgiveness
- Feast of Passover wasn't to look back but to look forward!
- Shared meal...if lamb too big and family too small...
- JESUS...enough of Him for everyone!!!!!!

***We too are undeserving. We don't deserve God's goodness, His blessings, His favor, His acceptance...but we are so loved. And if we accept the sacrifice God has provided, Jesus Himself, there is forgiveness!***

-1 Corinthians 15:55 (Jesus' death and resurrection at Jewish Passover)

-next year...Passover or Sunday? (eventually everyone did their own thing)

-Council of Nicea 325...let's unify...BOTH MATTER!!!!

- Passover matters...**forgiveness!**
- Resurrection matter...**final sacrifice!**
- Jewish lunar calendar...impact to Passover
- Mosaic Law requires Passover to be in Spring
- Passover coincides first full moon after first day of Spring
- First Sunday after the Passover Moon
- 3/22 -- 4/25
- Council of Nicea...problem solved!

### **-Why named Easter?**

- Monk's writings dating back to 700 A.D.
- Mentions the pagan worship in Spring in England
- Eostre was the goddess of spring
- (explain how early Christians would have evangelized...)
- worship of nature abandoned for worship of Jesus who changes the nature of man!
- Early Christians didn't accommodate Paganism...early pagans abandoned pagan worship for Jesus!
- The celebration of Jesus overtook this pagan festival!
- Powerful picture of what Jesus needs to do in us (explain parallel)

**-This History: I need forgiveness, Jesus is the only way, He takes over!!!!**

### **-Are you ready for a So Loved life to overtake you?**

#### **So Loved**

-Hay Fire Story (what we hear vs. what is actually said)

#### **-John 3:16**

- "Sarcasm So"
- teens getting grounded everywhere...
  
- "Extreme So"
- think of all the ways we use this...
- Romans 8:38-39
  
- "Exactly Like This So"
- houto (who-toe)
- God is showing us how He loves...and how we should love Him...

#### **-So Loved always So Loves**

-Matthew 21:28-31

-**Two Circles** (image of both on slide)

- Circle of Saying (prayers, songs, declarations, etc.)
- Circle of Doing (our lifestyles, decisions, attitudes, thoughts)
- **God's circles!!!**
- Are our circles colliding or moving apart?
- Is our overlap just an Easter Egg!!!

**The Judas Story** (every year...Praxis 9 interns)

-Luke 22:1-7

-John 13:21-27

-Is this a contradiction?

- These are clues left by God to dig deeper!
- Satan is limited!
- 1 John 4:4 (reference)

-Jesus knows Judas has already betrayed Him...

- shares His table...
- washes Judas' feet...
- Judas wasn't kept around because someone had to betray!

*Judas was there that night because Jesus is always there for people who's circle of saying and circle of doing have moved so far apart that they may never touch again! Jesus was giving Judas once last chance to confess...because So Loved always So Loves!*

**So Loved** (if there is time)

-I remember when the two circles of my life began to collide...

- Belize summer of 1991
- Singing "I Have Decided..."
- That special needs child...
- God said to me, "This is what I have done for you...I came to you!"
- So Loved always So Loves!

## **Band**

-response...

## **Close**

-???