

Easter Uncanceled

Pastor Carl Toti
April 3-4, 2021

Mark 16:1-6 (NLT)

1 Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene and Salome and Mary the mother of James went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. 2 Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. 3 On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. 5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, 6 but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body."

WHAT IS CANCELING?

"Canceling is an individual's volitional act of publicly rejecting and actively pursuing harm against a perceived transgressor. There are two parties in every canceling episode: the person who cancels (the canceler) and the entity — person, group, or organization that is canceled. Canceling requires the canceler to engage in three psychological processes:

1. To identify or become aware of a transgression and judge it to be significant.
2. To experience strong negative emotions.
3. To act punitively and visibly to harm the transgressor."

—Utpal M. Dholakia, Ph.D., George R. Brown Professor of Marketing at Rice University

CHRIST MET ALL THREE CRITERIA

1. Christ claimed to be God
2. He forgave sin
3. And said, "If you kill Me I will rise again in three days!"

Cancelers like to cancel for three reasons—

1. Elevates the canceler over the canceled
2. Diminishes the canceled
3. It strengthens bonds

WHAT DOES EASTER CANCEL?

1. EASTER CANCELS _____

Matthew 28:9-10 (NASB)

9 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"Nothing is so much to be feared as fear."

—Henry David Thoreau

"Fear imprisons, faith liberates; fear paralyzes, faith empowers; fear disheartens, faith encourages; fear sickens, faith heals; fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable—and, most of all, fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life, while faith rejoices in its God."

—Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969)

2. EASTER CANCELS _____

Luke 24:9-11 (NLT)

9 So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. 11 But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.

THE HARVARD GAZETTE: Young adults hardest hit by loneliness during pandemic—

“Recently released results of a study conducted last October by researchers at Making Caring Common, 36 percent of respondents to a national survey of approximately 950 Americans reported feeling lonely “frequently” or “almost all the time or all the time” in the prior four weeks, compared with 25 percent who recalled experiencing serious issues in the two months prior to the pandemic. Perhaps most striking is that 61 percent of those aged 18 to 25 reported high levels.”

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/02/young-adults-teens-loneliness-mental-health-coronavirus-covid-pandemic/>

“80% of Thoughts Are Negative...95% are repetitive.

In 2005, the National Science Foundation published an article regarding research about human thoughts per day. The average person has about 12,000 to 60,000 thoughts per day. Of those, 80% are negative and 95% are exactly the same repetitive thoughts as the day before. And about 80% are negative.”

<https://faithhopeandpsychology.wordpress.com/2012/03/02/80-of-thoughts-are-negative-95-are-repetitive/>

3. EASTER CANCELS _____

Luke 24:5 (NIV)

5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

ANSWERS:

1. FEAR
2. LONELINESS
3. DEATH