

EGGS

Easter Eggs. Everyone has made one. I'm not quite sure what One Direction, Twix and Buttons all have to do with Easter but they all have an egg! (That last one is my favourite, in case you're wondering...) I also read recently that a well-known supermarket chain had to correct themselves when it reported that "Few young people realised that Easter was to celebrate the birth of Christ." Very few indeed, I hope.

There are so many symbols, pictures, images and events that could all in some way point to something much greater. However, they are really only as powerful as the understanding of the people who use them or hold them.

Almost as guaranteed as the eggs on the shelves is the minister's rant at the disgraceful activity of supermarkets high-jacking our Easter message for their capital gain. However, can we all claim to have really grasped the Easter message? Are we ready to celebrate Easter in a way that is completely counter to a consumeristic seizure of His resurrection? Can we all claim to be living radically changed lives led by our Risen Saviour?

Andy Hawthorne, director of The Message Trust, says, "Easter should knock us sideways. The first person in heaven after Jesus died was a common thief who had done absolutely nothing to deserve salvation." It is a huge triumph of love, goodness, forgiveness, generosity and grace.

How is love triumphing in our lives and in our communities? Consumerism is, perhaps, a sign to us that things aren't right, but the supermarkets are merely responding to our desires and turning them into their profit.

What might Tesco look like in a world where love is our number one priority? Perhaps it'd be a hub where food can be bought but also freely received if that's what you need?

As we work through the events of Easter, we will come towards the end of Matthew's Gospel, which finishes with some of the most famous words of the Bible: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Jesus promised that as we commit to follow Him, commit to His call to make disciples of all nations, He will be with us. We desperately need to honour God in this big post-Easter call, giving our lives to follow Him, reaching out to others and leading them towards God's love. Surely, this is the only way we can truly celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ for the world.

Have a truly blessed, but very challenging, Easter!

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