

EASTER MESSAGES 2010  
DON'T MISS THE OBVIOUS!  
MATTHEW 21:1-11



### The Heart of the Matter

Who doesn't love the glorious celebration of the resurrection? But in our haste to get to Easter Sunday, we sometimes miss something significant that happened a week earlier—the day we label “Palm Sunday.” The people of Jesus's day missed the obvious that day because they looked too far back. They could only focus on the words of the strong-voiced prophet and the promise of a coming King, “His kingdom will have no end!” (Luke 1:33). There was no room in their thinking for a crucified King. We miss the obvious today because we look too far ahead. We focus so much on the angel's glorious shout at the tomb, “He is not here; He has risen!” (Luke 24:6 NIV), that we see little value in standing at the foot of the cross. There's no room in our thinking for a suffering Savior. Let's correct our pattern and pause today to look at the scene that started it all.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. You'll Miss the Obvious if You Set Your Mind on Horizontal Interests (Matthew 21:1-11)

If people had been paying attention that day, they would have noticed that Jesus did a strange thing by entering Jerusalem seated on a donkey. What is that about?

#### 2. Don't Miss God's Obvious Expression of Love in the Sacrifice of Jesus (Psalm 118:25-26; Luke 19:38-41)

It's not surprising that in their distraction, no one noticed the love and grief Jesus expressed for the people He had come to save but who rejected Him as Savior.

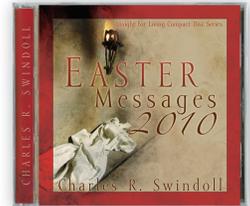


### Starting Your Journey

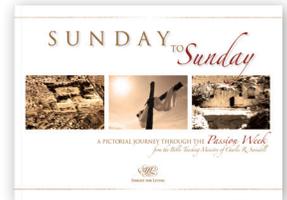
The Lord isn't angry with or unconcerned about you. Remember, He wept and grieved over those who missed the opportunity to turn to Him for salvation. Don't you miss it too.



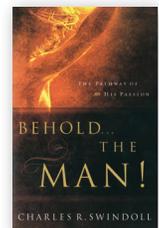
### Tools for Digging Deeper



Easter Messages 2010  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
CD set



Sunday to Sunday: A Pictorial Journey Through the Passion Week  
by Charles R. Swindoll and Insight for Living  
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Behold . . . the Man!  
The Pathway of His Passion  
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EASTER MESSAGES 2010  
TRIUMPH SHOUTS FROM A TOMB  
JOHN 20:6-8



### The Heart of the Matter

Did Jesus really die? Could He, in fact, just have been in a coma? Before you can celebrate a resurrection, you must first establish that Jesus really died. Skeptics will argue different theories that deny the miracle, but a look at the facts and the testimonies will prove that Jesus Christ, Son of God, rose *from the dead*. After hope itself had died, God had the final say.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Let's Be Certain Jesus Literally Died (Selected Scriptures)

If you could ask the people who stood closest to the cross and the tomb if, in fact, Jesus had died, you would hear in their own words how every sign of life—from His blood to His body to His breath to His spirit—proved that all life and hope were gone.

#### 2. Assurance of a Bodily and Miraculous Resurrection (John 20:6-8)

If you interviewed still more people, you would hear reliable witnesses testify that though Jesus was a dead man, He arose, departed from the tomb, and appeared to dozens of people.

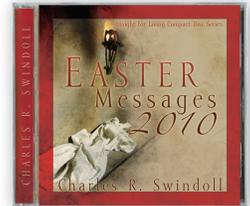


### Starting Your Journey

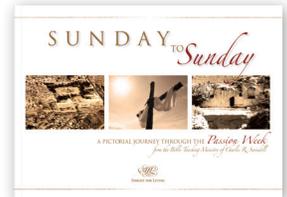
The resurrection of Jesus Christ is more than a historical fact; it is the miracle of God. Though absolutely dead and lifeless, Jesus arose, departed from the tomb, appeared, ascended, and now lives on to give hope to all who receive Him.



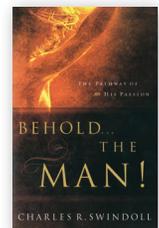
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