

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. The Article 4-1: The Real Meaning of Easter (复活节)

Easter, also known as Passover (逾越节), is the most important religious feast (庆典, 节日) of the Christian church. Observed between late March and late April, It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus (耶稣从死复活), which occurred after his death by crucifixion (钉死在十字架上). The church believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and they remembered how He had healed the sick (医病) and made blind people see. They remembered how He had fed (喂饱) thousands of people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. They even remembered how He had caused dead people to come back to life (使死人复活). He was such a good and kind man; why did He have to die? After Jesus had been crucified and died on the cross, Jesus' friends, Joseph and Nicodemus asked Pilate (彼拉多, 罗马统治长官) to have Jesus body so they could bury him in a tomb. The next day, the *Pharisees* (犹太法利赛人) remembered how He had taught them, saying that He would rise again after three days (第三日复活). They were worried that it might be true! They went to Pilate, requesting that the tomb be closed up with a huge stone and that guards (守卫) be placed all around the tomb. Just before daylight the third day, the most amazing (令人吃惊) thing happened! There was a great earthquake (地震)! An angel (天使) from the Lord came down from heaven, moved the gigantic (巨大的) stone away from the door of the tomb and sat on it. The guards began to shake (发抖) with fear! They fell down to the ground as if they were dead! Some of Jesus disciples, Mary and some other women, had decided to get up very early in the morning and go to visit the tomb where Jesus had been placed. What a surprise they found when they reached the tomb! The stone had already been moved! And . . . there was an angel sitting on the stone! The women were quite afraid, but the angel spoke gently to them: "Don't be afraid. I know that you have come to see Jesus. He is not here; for he has risen from the dead (从死里复活了) just as he said. Come inside and see the place where he lay." The women went inside the tomb and found it empty. "The women ran quickly from the tomb, with fear and great joy, to tell the good news to

the other disciples. But . . . when the women found Peter and their other friends and tried to tell them the good news, *no one believed them!* When the women persisted (坚持), Peter ran all the way to the tomb. He went inside. He saw the clothes that had been wrapped around Jesus, but the body was not there. He wondered if it could *possibly* be true. As they were talking, Jesus appeared to them. They were afraid and thought they were seeing a ghost (鬼怪), but Jesus told them not to be afraid. He showed them His hands and feet where He had been nailed to the cross; they finally believed that Jesus had risen from the dead, just like He said He would. They were so excited that they had to tell everybody the good news that “**Jesus Is Alive! He is not here, but is risen**” (Luke 24:6). This is the real meaning of Easter.

Jesus is such a good man, why did Jesus have to die on the cross?

Because the people who God created are deeply in sin (罪), not recognizing (认识) him as God and thus alienated from God (远离神). Yet, “God so loved the world that He gave his only Son (to die for the sins of the world), that whoever believes in Him (相信耶稣) should not perish (灭亡) but have eternal life (永生).” (John 3:16)

Jesus gave his life as a price for man's release from the bondage (捆绑) of sin.

2. Discussion:

1. What do you know about the popular and social American ideas of Easter?
2. Compare the popular ideas to the real meaning of Easter.
3. How does the event celebrated at Easter show that Jesus is more than just a Good kind man?

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

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| 134. It's Sunday today. | 今天是星期天。 |
| 135. Just wait and see! | 等着瞧! |
| 136. Make up your mind. | 做个决定吧。 |
| 137. That's all I need. | 我就要这些。 |
| 138. The view is great. | 景色多么漂亮! |
| 139. The wall has ears. | 隔墙有耳。 |
| 140. There comes a bus. | 公交车来了。 |

