

Easter Day 2019

Why did Jesus rise?

I have discovered that there are **heaps** of Australians today who don't **know** a lot about **Easter**...

So in the last week I've heard such comments as – “now did Jesus die on the **Sunday**? – what was the **Friday** all about?”

Even heard someone say quite confidently – Easter – that's when Jesus was **born** - right? //

others reckon it has **something** to do with **Jesus**, but **that's** as far as they can **go**...

I've heard someone **else** say that it has to do with **bunnies** and **eggs** but they're unsure of how that **links** to **Jesus**... (well – I'm often unsure about that as **well**!)

So in just a few minutes this morning – in fact in just **SIX words**, I want to see if we can get to the **heart** of the **Easter**...

Six words you can use to explain to your **children** or **grandchildren**.

Six words you can use for your **friends** who want to give you a hard time for turning **up** here this morning.

Six words you can give to someone **you** know who doesn't have a **clue** what it's **about**....

Ready?

We **mucked** up

God **fixed** up

Not particularly **poetic**.

Not the Queen's **English**.

Perhaps too **simple** for you...

But there it is – there's **Easter explained** – we **mucked** up, God **fixed** up.

Let me ask you – do you **like** the way you see the world right now?

Murder in Christchurch

Christians killed in Nigeria

Syria still basically a mess

Starving children

Political instability everywhere – USA, UK, right here...

Corruption in government

Gambling ads all over our televisions

Families breaking **down** and splitting up?

Domestic violence at alarming rates

Youth suicide violence at alarming rates

Drug addiction violence at alarming rates

And in our **own** lives?

Working harder and harder to get **ahead**, but feeling we're going **backwards**

A hunch there's **more** to **life** than all we **own** or **have** in the **bank**, but an **uncertainty** as to what that **is** /

A **restlessness**

An **anxiety**

an **unhappiness**

a **dissatisfaction** – even though we live in this most beautiful part of the world!

Here's the **thing**. //

We've **mucked** up.

That's **why** the *world* is the way it is

That's why **we** are the way **we** are

Mankind has had this determined '**go-it-alone-without-God**' approach to life

We prefer to do our **own** thing

We don't **want** God calling the **shots** – **dictating terms**.

We're **independent**

We're **self-sufficient**

We're **tough**, we're **proud**, we consider ourselves **good** people

we'll call on God if we're in **trouble**

we'll claim the tag '**Christian**'

we'll even come out for **Christmas** and **Easter**

but if we're **honest**

God's not in the **picture**

He's **sidelined** at **best**

Irrelevant at **worst**

He's not **first**

He's not our life's **passion**

He's **not** the **boss!** //

And all is not **well** – with the **world** or with *us*

It's not **right**

It's **not** how it's **meant** to be!

Because.... **WE'VE MUCKED UP!**

But here's the thing: **GOD FIXED UP!**

You see – he couldn't just wipe the impact of our '**go-it-alone-without-him**' behaviour under the **carpet!**

He couldn't just let it **go**

It wouldn't be **right**

It wouldn't be **fair**

No – he takes both **himself** and **us** way more seriously than that.

Nor does he want us to remain out of **sorts** with him **forever!**

So Jesus puts on **human flesh**

And he comes to **serve** us

And in **obedience** to his Father...

... and in **love** for us

He took on his **own** shoulders what was due to **us** for walking **away** from him

He loves you **so** much, he **died** for you.

Instead of you

So **you** wouldn't have **to**.

That's **why** he **died**.

To deal with all we've **mucked** up

Once and for **all**. //

On his **cross**:

He **fixed** it **up**

He **paid** our **debt**

So we can be **forgiven**

So we can be **reconciled** to **God**

Here is what we read in our first Bible reading: *God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them!* (2 Corinthians 5:19)

Isn't that brilliant!

But...

WHY DID HE RISE?

He rose up and out of that tomb

...because he's **God**

Death couldn't hold God **down**!

Why did he rise?

Because he **conquered evil**

How **COULD** **evil** triumph over **Good**? – over **God**?

Why did he rise?

to usher in a new time where **wrongs** are **righted**

where **justice** is **done**

where **evil** is **gone**

where **death itself** is **dead!** ///

We **mucked** up

God **fixed** up

We turned our **back** on him yet he did **everything** necessary so we can return with **confidence.** //

That's **astonishing kindness!** //

Easter is the sure sign you see that God takes you **seriously.**

Very seriously.

I want to **boldly** ask you this morning - do you take **him** as seriously as he takes **you?**

Or are you just playing **around** at the **edges?**

Have you **fooled** yourself into thinking that a passing **nod** in his **direction** every now and again, is just enough to keep in **good** with **him?**

You'll be **restless** – life won't be **all** it's **meant to be....**

until you receive his **kindness**, and **welcome** him in

You won't find real **peace....** until you've admitted you've **mucked** up and **asked** him to **fix** up!

Until... he's in his **rightful** place - as **No. 1** in your **life.** //

We **mucked** up

God **fixed** up

6 words that tell the **Easter story**.

If you know **all** about that... because at some point in your life you **admitted** you had mucked up and you asked him to **fix** up - then **revel** in the reminder of this, this morning – it's the **best news ever!**

Jesus has risen!

You're **his**.

You're **forgiven!**

You're **alive!** – really alive now – and alive **forever!!**

Brilliant!!

If it's not **yet** your story... because you're still holding **out** on God... /

...**that** can all change **today**...

by **admitting** you've **mucked up**

... turning **back** to **him**.

...and asking God to **fix** up.

Then you **too** will receive **forgiveness** and **new life**.

The Easter **message?**

Yes - we **mucked up**

But - God **fixed** up –

So - **Happy Easter!**