

## Easter 2014 – Talk (Matthew 28:1-10) – The Recipe for an Easter Person

Great reading – Jesus is alive!

- Familiar details: women approach tomb in darkness, in fear
- Meet angel and hear news: He has risen (twice) – The tomb is empty!
- ‘Afraid yet filled with joy’ (v8) – then meet Jesus himself – ‘no more we doubt thee’
- Jesus meets disciples too

Resurrection makes all the difference – look at disciples

- fear to faith, despair to joy, confusion to mission
- they became **EASTER PEOPLE** – going to think about that today – what makes an Easter person? How can we be Easter People?

This morning we are going to do a bit of baking and think about the ingredients that make an Easter person. To do that, I’ve got a special helper...

**Hello and welcome to my kitchen. I am Godfrey - Godfrey Lylovesyou. You may be thinking that I am not well known, that compared to say Heston Blumenthal and his wacky creations that you are expecting something rather traditional. Well I created the aye-aye and the anteater – enough said me thinks!**

**Anyway on with the recipe.....**

### **Easter People Recipe**

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Two chunks of determination (butter)                | • 50g (2 oz) butter             |
| Two heaped spoonfuls of wisdom (sugar)              | • 50g (2 oz) caster sugar       |
| Two generous splashes of obedience (milk)           | • 2 tablespoons milk            |
| One cracked pride (egg)                             | • 1 medium egg, beaten          |
| Two heaped spoonfuls of compassion and love (flour) | • 50g (2 oz) self raising flour |
| A pinch of trial (salt)                             | • (A pinch of salt)             |
| Two dollops of joy (jam)                            | • 2 tablespoons of jam or syrup |

### Method

1. Take your 2 chunks of determination (**butter**) and mix it thoroughly with wisdom (**sugar**) so that the two bind and make a person who knows God’s will and is determined to carry it out.
2. Now stir in two generous splashes of obedience (**milk**) – but gently so the mixture doesn’t become harsh and spoiled – obedience is something that tends to be added in over time
3. Next add the cracked pride (**egg**) which, when thoroughly beaten, will instead of making the cake dense and heavy, give it a light texture and will make people want a second helping
4. Now sieve the love and compassion (flour) to get rid of any lumps of unforgiveness or anger of stuff that will get in the way of the person growing. Double-sieving will ensure that the love is refined and purified and will have the maximum impact on the mixture – fold it in gently now so that it works right into the obedience and humility
5. Next add a pinch of trial (**salt**), this will help to bring out the flavour of all the other ingredients. It keeps the flavour from being dull and adds depth (not too much though, as it can spoil the mixture and be over powering)
6. Finally just before baking, add a layer of two big dollops of joy (**jam**) which will make your mixture irresistible to everyone

Now place your mixture in the centre of community (**microwave**) on full power of the Spirit to ensure the mixture cooks right through and tastes delicious.

Thanks to our resident chef Godfrey – we'll take a look at his creation in a moment.

What is Easter about? It's all about Jesus, obviously – but what led Jesus to do what he did? To go through death for us, and out the other side to life and victory? The simple answer is that he was God's son, he possessed all the attributes of God within himself and was able to bear on our behalf what we could not bear for ourselves.

But if we look a little closer and ask: what is God's character, what are those attributes? Well, it's all here, in our recipe isn't it: wisdom, determination, obedience, humility, love and compassion, trial and joy. That's the divine mixture that allowed Jesus to be obedient to the end & so turn defeat into great victory.

But Easter is not a myth, a nice religious story to encourage one particular faith group. It is not even only an event in history, confined to the pages of the distant past – though of course it is a real event, the central act of human history. Jesus, the first Easter person, paved the way for his followers to be Easter people too. That's why the first church started to meet every Sunday, to celebrate weekly the glorious news of Easter. And throughout history, his followers have been Easter people.

Which means we are Easter people... now. The events of Easter, the cross and resurrection, define what it is to be truly human, to be the people God made us to be, the people Jesus is forming us to be. Every week, the events of Easter should sit at the heart of who we are, and who we are becoming. Like Jesus, God calls us to mix wisdom, determination, obedience, humility, love and compassion, trial and joy. That's our mixture too, our recipe to be the people God calls us to be, people ultimately who will share in Jesus' victory with him one day.

And we live with that mixture of things, don't we: trial and joy, love and obedience. Like the women at the tomb who were 'afraid yet filled with joy'. Easter is a celebration of two parts: the suffering and the victory. Many of us like to airbrush one side or the other out: but the glorious truth is that both sit together. That combination of struggle and overcoming is the human story isn't it – it's what it means to be truly human. And Jesus shared in that, and in doing so took those familiar elements and made a new recipe, a new reality for all of us.

So as we celebrate today, as we remember what it cost Jesus to win the victory on our behalf, let's also pause and reflect on the recipes of our lives. Are we missing an ingredient? Is the mixture unbalanced? What can God add into our recipe to make us the true Easter people he calls us to be?

Wisdom, determination, obedience, humility, love and compassion, trial and joy – now there's a recipe for living.

(Check cake - Share later!)