



**Easter 2014: Uprising**  
April 20<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Warm-up:** What were the highs and lows of Easter week for you personally?

- What aspect of the uprising of Jesus Christ has ministered to your heart and life most significantly recently?
  
- In the very beginning we are told that Lucifer rose up, desiring to take God's place, and he took 1/3 of the angels with him in his uprising. He said, "I will ascend to heaven and put my throne above the stars of God. I will be like the Most High." God threw him out of heaven. (See **Isa. 14:12; Ezk.28**)
  - We often think of Adam and Eve's sin as the beginning of the uprising against God. Lucifer, however, and his sin of arrogant pride mark the inception of disobedience and sin.
  - How should this truth instruct us about the sin of pride? Why, in your view, is pride so dangerous?
  
- Whereas Satan's uprising brought sin, death, and eternal separation for humanity, God's uprising brings eternal celebration, eternal life over death and the forgiveness of sin through faith in Jesus Christ.
  - How real or tangible is the concept of Heaven (eternal celebration) to you personally?
  - What do you attribute to the common but mistaken idea that, like Gary Larsen's *The Far Side* comic, Heaven is simply hanging out on a cloud doing nothing?
  
- Reflect upon Jesus' words to the thief on the cross in **Luke 24:39**. If Heaven is like "paradise" what kinds of things do you imagine *could* be there? Also allow **Revelation 21:4** to guide your discussion.

**Wrap-up:** Are you praying regularly for non-believers in your life to come to faith in Jesus Christ? If not, why aren't you? Share a bit about those in your life that you want to come to faith. What are their obstacles and how can you begin to prayerfully engage them with the gospel?