

The Transforming Power of the Resurrection

John 20:1-23

There isn't a lot of earth-shattering information that has really transformed my life on a great level outside of God's Word. Sure, there are a lot of wonderful books I've read and wonderful information I've learned and utilized, but nothing outside of God's Word that has revolutionized my life. I've read many of the classics for either high school or college literature classes, and I don't remember "War and Peace" really changing the way I do life! The only information that has really transformed my life is the fact that Jesus Christ did everything that He said He would do, He died, He was buried, and He rose again on the third day! The fact that the tomb is empty has transformed my life! We see the way that different members' lives were affected due to the resurrection. The main question is: Has the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead transformed you?

Transformed from Being Secretive to Becoming a Servant Follower (John 19:38-39) Both Joseph and Nic reveal that Jesus is important, that He is Lord. They really jeopardized their future when identifying with Jesus. Isn't Jesus worth it?

Transformed from Being Sorrowful to Becoming Joyful Upon Seeing Jesus (John 20:1-2; 11-18)

Listen to what Jesus told His disciples while in the upper room before He went to the cross. Recorded in John 16:20 "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy."

Transformed from Being Skeptical to Becoming a Saved Believer (John 20:3-10)

John wants us to believe. He wrote this accord in order that we believe in Christ as Lord and Savior. John 19:35 "He who saw it has borne witness- his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth- that you also may believe." John 20:31 "but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Transformed from Being Scared to Becoming Secure in Christ (John 20:19-23)

- a. **Jesus gives us peace through the resurrection. (v.19)** This hope is what we anchor everything upon (1 Peter 1:3) "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*" Listen to what Paul says about Jesus in Philippians 2:7-9 "*but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,*"

We have peace that Jesus our hope. Hope for the forgiveness of sin. We have peace that Jesus is our healer. We have peace that Jesus is our giver of Heaven.

b. Jesus gives us His presence because of the resurrection. (v.22) John 16:7 “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”

How has the resurrection affected you? Has it transformed you from sinner to a saved follower? Here are some biblical truths that we must come to grips with, we are all sinners in need of Christ to save us! (Romans 3:23-24) “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,”. We are saved through belief in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10) “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” My prayer is that you have done that and that you are living a transformed life because of the resurrection.