



BOOK *of* JOHN

LIFE-CHANGING TRANSFORMATION

JOHN 20:18-31

The day that changed the world.

- Wherever people were confronted with the reality of Jesus' resurrection, their lives were transformed. Today that truth remains the same!
- Radical transformations took place in the lives of people ***as they saw Jesus*** alive in their lives!
- Have you personally met the risen Christ?
- Has He changed *your* life?

Let's look at those transformations . . .

1. FROM FEAR TO COURAGE v. 19-25

A. JESUS CAME TO THEM AND HE COMES TO US, TOO

- We do not know where these ten frightened men met behind locked doors, but Jesus came to them and reassured them.
- It is no wonder Jesus reproached them at that time *“with their unbelief and hardness of heart”* (**Mark 16:14**); His love casts out our fear and unbelief.
- Jesus comes to us because He came for our peace.

B. JESUS REASSURED THEM

- His wounds meant more than identification; they also were evidence that the price for salvation had been paid and man indeed could have “*peace with God.*”
- What a reassurance to realize that Jesus loves us as the Father loves Him (**John 15:9, 17:26**), and that we are in the Father just as Jesus is (**John 17:21-22**).
- We are so secure in Christ that He has sent us out to be His representatives.

C. JESUS ALSO ENABLED THEM

- They would now be empowered by the Holy Spirit. In both Hebrew (***Ruach***) and Greek (***pneumo***), the word for “*breath*” also means “*spirit*.”
- The Spirit had dwelt ***with*** them in the person of Christ, but now the Spirit would be ***in*** them. **John 14:17**
- **John 20:23**, or **Matt. 16:19**, must not be interpreted to mean that Jesus gave to a select body of people the right to forgive sins and let people into heaven.
- They could now preach the Gospel which saves!

2. UNBELIEF TO CONFIDENCE v. 26-28

- **John 14:5** reveals that Thomas was a spiritually-minded man who wanted to know the truth and was not ashamed to ask questions.
- But Thomas was a bit pessimistic or skeptical.
- Doubt is often an intellectual problem, where faith is overwhelmed by problems and questions.
- Unbelief is a moral/spiritual problem; we simply will not believe in spite of the evidence.
- Doubt can become unbelief. Thomas by faith believed.

3. TRANSFORMED FROM DEATH TO LIFE v. 29-31

- John wrote this gospel so that people in every age could know that Jesus is God and that faith in Him brings everlasting life.
- There are nearly 100 references in this gospel to believing on Jesus Christ.
- “Life” is one of John’s key words—he uses it 36 times.
- Jesus offers sinners eternal life and the only way they can get it is through personal faith in Him.

TRANSFORMED TO ETERNAL LIFE

- The unsaved and lost sinner is not simply sick or weak, *he or she is dead*—both now and forever.
- Salvation is not by resuscitation, it is by resurrection (**John 5:24**). **It is a life-or-death choice to believe!**
- Eternal life is not just endless time. Eternal life means *the very life of God experienced today and forever*.

Have you been transformed? If not, you can have eternal life today by believing in Jesus Christ the Savior.