

JESUS' RESURRECTION ; JOHN WHITE

If his resurrection is true, it changes everything

Is it true? How do you know?

Jesus walked on this earth for 40 days after his resurrection, and interacted with many who had known him.

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything:

For the desperate

Mary Magdalene, John 20.11-19

Mary was desperately sad, because the one who had given her hope and a sense of value, who had appreciated her, had died. Luke 7.36—38, 44-48.

She had stayed by the cross, she had seen him die, seen his body put into a tomb, and the stone rolled across. Luke 23.55 -24.9. She and other women prepared the spices to anoint his body. They had gone to the tomb very early on the first day of the week, wondering how they would get the stone rolled away.

To their surprise, the stone was already rolled away, and they were met by two men in dazzling clothes who said that Jesus had risen. They went to tell the disciples – Peter and John ran to the tomb, and sure enough, the body was gone, the grave clothes were there, but they didn't understand the truth of what had happened.

Mary remained there, crying bitterly, and through her tears she saw a man, and he asked her why she was crying. She said, 'Where have you put him?' And he said, "Mary". That was enough to tell her who he was.

So he speaks to each of us by name. But do we recognize his voice?
How has he spoken to you?

Mary responded, Rabboni (Teacher).

Now she was no longer desperate, but comforted and empowered to go and spread the good news. He has risen!!

How do we respond to him when he speaks our name?

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything:

For the devastated

Peter.

Jesus had told Mary, 'Go, tell my disciples and Peter'. He knew how Peter would be feeling. Peter had seen Jesus' miracles, had participated in some of them – walking on water, he had recognized Jesus as the Christ, but when Jesus had said he would die, Peter had refused to accept that. Mark 8.29 -33. He had also refused to let Jesus wash his feet John 13.3-8, until Jesus explained the necessity for him to do so.

At the last supper, when Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray him, Peter said he never would--- Mark 14.29-31. He was absolutely sure about this. Jesus told him that before the cock crowed he would deny him three times. Peter tried to be brave, taking his sword to defend Jesus when the soldiers came to capture him, but he only succeeded in cutting off the ear of a servant.

John 21.15-19 When Jesus died, the disciples were terrified and hid. Later, Peter decided to go fishing, and the others went too. They saw someone on the beach by a fire. It was Jesus – and three times he asked Peter, 'Do you love me?' Each time Peter said, yes, he loved Jesus, 'You know I love you'. Jesus gave him a commission to feed his sheep, his lambs.

His three denials were countered by three occasions to declare his love. Peter was no longer devastated – he was free.

Have we ever denied Jesus? In what ways could we deny him, perhaps not in words but in actions?

Jesus never turns away from us, no matter what we have done, he draws us back to him.

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything:

For the disillusioned

Luke 24.13-34. Cleopas and his companion had been full of **hope**. They had expected him to fix the problem of the Roman occupation. He was the king, wasn't he? But he hadn't done that – instead, he had died a humiliating and shameful death. How let down they felt.

Have we ever felt let down by God? He hasn't answered our prayer – he hasn't brought the healing we expected, he hasn't fixed the injustice we have suffered....

Disillusionment was dispelled when Jesus ate with them and they knew who he was. They returned to Jerusalem rejoicing, eager to tell the good news.

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything

For the doubting

Thomas. John 20.24-29.

Thomas had said, 'I won't believe it until I see it.' Jesus knew Thomas' doubts, and when he appeared to him, those doubts disappeared. He said, 'My Lord and my God.' He became a true worshipper, an evangelist and disciple.

Jesus knows our doubts too – he wants us to express them to him honestly, and not pretend. When we do this, he can dispel the doubts as he did for Thomas.

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything

For you and me

When he appeared to the disciples, John 20, 19-21, what did he say?

He says the same thing to us as well. How well do we know his peace?

He can revolutionise our lives as he did for these four people. Has he revolutionised your life? In what ways has he changed you?

Do we, like the disciples, hide behind locked doors? Can you suggest what kind of doors these might be?

Jesus can come through locked doors to be with us and then the doors can be opened.

Give Jesus your - Desperation
Devastation
Disillusion
Doubt

John 10.10 – What did Jesus come to give us?