



From Betrayal to Belief
John 20:1-29
Easter Week 4/21/19

INTRODUCTION

What would be an example of a lesson from your early childhood that you learned that has formed your life today as a man or woman? What doubts did you encounter in your life? Were there any lessons that you learned that you would call “life-changing”?

UNDERSTANDING

| JOHN 20:1-9.

When we go through moments that ask of us to trust in God's plan over our own, how can we often go only with what is reasonable?

From your personal experience, how have you acted like Mary in how we respond in trials?

How could the actions of Mary and the disciples be viewed as showing doubts?

Compare and contrast Mary's reaction to the open tomb to John's. Would you have reacted more like Mary or John? Why?

IMPORTANT: The point is made of how the resurrection is the anchor of our lives. This statement means that the resurrection of Jesus Christ stands to be central to all of Christianity! This unique event showed Jesus was not only a man, but He was the God-man that overcame death and the penalty of our sin. So, His walking out of the grave stands to be the truth for us to know that we see not only his sacrifice as the forgiveness of our sins, but the resurrection is the promise of eternal life fulfilled!

What would be evidences in your life that you embrace the resurrection as a central truth in your life?

How did the event of Jesus' death and resurrection prove that He is not only our Savior but also our Lord? What does it look like for us to live under His authority? What can be some areas that we try to hold back from the authority of God?

How should our lives look different in light of believing in the resurrection of Jesus?

| JOHN 20:11-18.

What does the statement mean: the empty tomb points to our risen Savior and Lord? How do we see that reflected in Mary's interaction with Jesus?

What does Jesus' revealing of Himself to Mary tell us about Him? What does it tell us about our need of a relationship with Him?

Mary responded to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"; How do you see the good news of the gospel in Mary's interaction with Jesus? What are ways that you can make the same expression in your life?

| JOHN 20:19-29.

Why do you think He showed the disciples His hands and side?

Why do we experience moments of doubt even as we believe? What difference does it make to our faith that Jesus comes with such graciousness in our doubting?

What are the blessings for those who believe without seeing? How have you experienced this?

Read Acts 1-2 and see the difference in the disciples' attitude after seeing the resurrected Lord. How does this encourage you?

APPLICATION

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-5. How does the gospel message help us to overcome our doubts that we face? How does it build our life upon the truth of God's love for us?

Spend time in reflection of what direction your life is turned. Are you heading towards the Lord each day or are you moving away? Challenge each other to spend time in God's Word this week and remain focused on Christ?

Share with someone how the resurrection of Christ makes a difference in your daily life? What hope does the truth of Christ's resurrection give you?