

Easter 2025: Transformed by the Risen Christ

04/20/2025 - Andy Deane

This Easter, we're not just celebrating an empty tomb, we're celebrating a risen Savior who specializes in transformation. The resurrection of Jesus isn't just a moment in history, it's the power that can rewrite our story too. So let's look at three lives that were completely transformed, not by religion, not by effort, but by an encounter with the risen Jesus.

MARY – From Grief to Joy!

John 20:11–18, *Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been... They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!"...*

1. Death hurts so bad because we love so much.
2. Grief blinds us to God's presence even when He's nearby.
3. Jesus meets us personally in our pain, with real hope.

THOMAS – From Doubt to Belief!

John 20:24–29, *Now Thomas... was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

1. Doubt isn't the enemy of faith—it's often the beginning of it.
2. Jesus doesn't shame your questions, He answers with grace.
3. When you've seen enough, it's time to believe.

Text **DOUBT** to 951.425.4425 to read a book & discuss it with Pastor Andy (plus 5 great quotes on doubt).

PETER – From Failure to Restored!

John 21:17, *The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."*

1. Peter failed big, and so have we.
2. Your brokenness isn't your final form, not when you have Jesus!

You are more than what's been done to you, or by you.

YOU – From _____ to _____

Romans 6:4, *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

1. The same power that raised Jesus can transform you.
2. Maybe your blank spaces are to move from Searching to Finding?

Easter is the ultimate "before and after" moment.

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO JESUS?

Jesus isn't indifferent to your **grief**. He isn't mad at **doubt**. He isn't done with you because of your **failure**. He's calling your name, just like **Mary**. He's inviting you to believe, just like **Thomas**. He's offering you a second chance, just like **Peter**. You don't need to have it all figured out. You just need to take a step toward the One who stepped out of grave.

- Please text **JOURNEY** to 951.425.4425 to let us know where you are on your journey with Jesus.
- We are having baptisms next week all services. Text **BAPTISM** to 951.425.4425 to learn more and to sign up.
- Join us next week as we start a new series about marriage & parenting titled, ***There's No Place Like Home***.