

# EASTER



How have lives been transformed by Easter?

- From *Despair* to *Hope*
- From *Bitterness and Unforgiveness* to *Letting Go*
- From *Insecurity* to *Deep Assurance*
- From *Selfishness* to *Selflessness and Sacrifice*
- From a World of *Gray* to a World full of *Color & Beauty*

## **John 20:24-31:**

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ...

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although 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, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ...

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.

- John 20:24-31

How can you experience the hope, joy, and healing of Easter in your life?

Like Thomas, you have to be able to say and believe about the risen Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

#### Bookends:

John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 20:28: Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

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#### "MY": Conviction

John Murray: "Faith is *knowledge* passing into *conviction*, and it is *conviction* passing into *confidence*."

#### Summary:

How can you experience the hope, joy, and healing of Easter in your life?

You have to be able to say and believe about the risen Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" As we see with Thomas, the resurrection of Christ is central to making this profession.

Responding to the risen Jesus as “My Lord and my God!”:

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1. “I’m not convinced.”

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John 20:26-29: Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although 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, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

What Jesus says and does here is perplexing.

Thomas did not need to see the risen Jesus in order to be saved, but he did need to see the risen Jesus in order to be an Apostle.

One of the key prerequisites of being an Apostle was being an eye-witness of the risen Jesus.

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b. “Do not disbelieve but believe.”

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2) Do this in community.

Responding to the risen Jesus as “My Lord and my God!”:

1. “I’m not convinced.”

2. **“I’m wounded and deeply scarred.”**

Do not miss this in our passage:

The risen Jesus bears scars and wounds!



## Why Does Jesus bear Scars in his Risen Body?

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2. His scars reflect his eternal love and care for you.

3. His scars address the shame we carry behind our scars.

We're often ashamed and try to hide our scars and wounds.

If our scars carry shame, what about Jesus' scars?

The eternal scars of Jesus reveal that He experienced shame on the deepest level. But the fact that He does not hide them reveals the incredible truth that He is not ashamed of what He went through for us, that He is not ashamed to call us his own.

Hebrews 2:10-11: In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. **So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.**

Responding to the risen Jesus as “My Lord and my God!”:

1. “I’m not convinced.”
2. “I’m wounded and deeply scarred.”
3. **“I’ve failed and I feel like a failure.”**

John 20:25b: But he (Thomas) said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

John 20:27: Then he (Jesus) said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”

Thomas: “Omg! Jesus heard what I said!”

Jesus: “Gotcha.”

Instead of coming down on Thomas, shaming Thomas, expressing his utter disappointment with Thomas for his lack of faith, the first words that Jesus says is, “Peace be with you.”

Dear friends, Jesus responds the same way with you.

Wrapping Up:

How can you experience the hope, joy, and healing of Easter in your life?

Like Thomas, you have to be able to say and believe about the risen Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

John 20:30-31: Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.

**Believe:**

1. Keep on believing.

Let the reality of the risen Jesus enable you to run the race set before you (Hebrews 12:1-2)!

Hebrews 12:1-2: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Believe:**

1. Keep on believing.
2. Decisive moment to believe.

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