

Transformed by the Resurrection and the Life

“This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death because it was not possible for him to be held by it” (Acts 2:23-24).

Peter had messed up big time... He had stumbled... Shot himself in the foot... Choked when it mattered most... And failed to come through in the crucial moment... Peter did the unthinkable; he denied that he knew his Lord not once, not twice, but as the old KJV translates it: “thrice” (Luke 22:34). Yet where Peter’s sinful heart was exposed, God’s sufficient grace abounded all the more. Peter would later be restored by the Resurrected Jesus. While on the beach of the same sand in which Peter was once was called into ministry three years prior, now Jesus was saying: “Follow Me” again (John 21:19). But this time Peter was going to be following Jesus with not only a renewed perspective on who Jesus was, but in the immeasurable greatness of the Spirit’s power, the same Spirit that rose Christ from the grave (Romans 8:11).

It seems like every Easter we are reminded of the “evidence” of Jesus’ resurrection. The testimony of the Scriptures, Jesus’ own prophetic voice, in how He declared three different times that He would conquer death. The post-resurrection appearances of Jesus: the women at the tomb, the disciples in the upper room, the 500 brothers and sisters, the seven disciples who were fishing, the apostles at the ascension, Paul on the road to Damascus. These all serve as clear proof that the tomb is and will forever be empty. But one that has always stood out to me is the transformation of the eleven apostles. For example, consider Peter, the spokesperson for the group, as a case in point...

Peter denied Jesus. He was fearful and afraid. He unfortunately revealed the cowardly heart that many of us humans bear. Yet when you read about His restoration and how he and the others were “clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49), everything changed. Now Peter was bold. Now Peter had that zeal back for the Kingdom of God, but this time that zeal was a zillion times stronger. Now, Jesus wasn’t just with Peter, but Jesus was in Peter. Now Peter was preaching instead of pouting. Now Peter was leading and leaping for the gospel in a whole new way. For Peter was “different” because the God who makes all the difference was at work within Him both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

And so if you need some evidence this Easter, look to Peter! Look to the man who was dramatically transformed and used by the Resurrection and the Life. But don’t stop at Peter... Look at all of the other little Peters that are around you today. Look at the sisters who have been saved and redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Look at the brothers who have finally humbled themselves in the presence of the Great I Am. Look into your own heart and see what grace He has given you and how He has taken you from caterpillar to butterfly. Look at this work of life and transformation that He has brought to you and to so many others over the past 2000 years. And then look to heaven and say with a smile: “Yes, Jesus has risen! He has risen indeed!” Happy Easter!

Respect the Blood,
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