

# This Changes Everything!

Read [John 20:1-20 NIV](#)

**Mary** thinks Jesus' body has been stolen. **Peter** sees the linen wrappings and can't work out what it's all about. The **disciples** didn't understand the scriptures. The angels question **Mary** and she still doesn't know what's going on. Then she thinks Jesus is the **gardener**. Then, it seems, she reaches out to cling on to him, and he tells her **she mustn't**. You could hardly get more confusion into a couple of paragraphs if you tried.

And the point is, of course: **Resurrection has burst into our world, but our minds and imaginations are too small to contain it. Like trying to fit the sea into a bottle.**

The **continued puzzlement of the disciples is a mark of the story's authenticity**. Nobody would have made up such a mess, and such details, like the cloth folded up by itself.

## I. A Restructured Reality!

### A. *Love ~ the basis of Creation*

Creation, springing from love, the gift of God to Himself

The World, the gift of God "for" Humanity

The Human, the gift of the Father "for" the Son!

The Human ~ gift of God to Creation!

The Feminine Human, the gift of God to the Masculine Human.  
Fruitfulness, Multiplication and Heaven on Earth

The FALL ~ **the work of the devil to steal love** from God and from the Human, who bears the image and likeness.

**B. Death Reigns Over Humanity** But **Love** FREES us! The SEED shall crush the HEAD!

John 11:25 NIV Jesus said to [Martha], ***“I am the resurrection and the life.*** He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.

**C. Love’s Mission** ~ God did not send His son to condemn...

Mark 10:45 NIV For even the **Son of Man** did not come to be served, but **to serve**, and **to give** his life as a **ransom** for many.

Luke 19:10 ... to **seek** and to **save** what was lost.”

Luke 4:43 But he said, “I must preach **the good news of the kingdom of God** to the other towns also, because **that is why I was sent.**”

To say that Jesus of Nazareth was the **most influential man** who ever lived is almost trite. Nearly two thousand years after he was brutally executed by Roman soldiers, more than 2.2 billion human beings attempt to follow his teachings and believe he is God. That includes 77 percent of the U.S. population, according to a Gallup Poll. The teachings of Jesus have shaped the entire world and continue to do so.

And there is no doubt that Jesus of Nazareth is the **most famous human being** the world has ever known. But Jesus had no infrastructure. He had no government behind him. He had no corporate sponsor. He and his disciples depended upon the charity of others for food and shelter, and they had no marketing. In the history of mankind, no one else has ever achieved worldwide fame with such an absence of resources.

**D. The Hidden Wisdom of God** ~ *The New Creation was “smuggled” past the Rulers of this Age in a plain wrapper!*

1 Cor 2:7 NIV We speak of **God’s secret wisdom**, a wisdom that has been **hidden** and that God destined for our glory before time

began. **8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

## ***E. The Destruction of Death Changes Everything***

2 Tim 1:9 NIV ...This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, **10** but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has **destroyed death** and has brought **life & immortality** to light through the gospel.

How did 12 peasant fishermen, tax collectors, farmers – how in the world did they multiply – 12 followers of Jesus to one out of every three people on the planet identifying as Christian]? — the **Resurrection!**

An **Empty Tomb** changed everything!

It split our calendar from BC to AD

Jesus never wrote a book, in fact he never wrote anything down, and yet there are **more books** written about Jesus than any other subject in the world.

Jesus never composed a song, but there is more music written about Jesus Christ than any other subject, bar none, in history!

Jesus never drew any pictures or did any sculpture, [but] more art has been made about Jesus Christ than any other subject in history!

Jesus never traveled more than 100 miles from where he was born, and yet, you can find followers of Jesus in every nook and cranny of the planet.

Col 1.6 NIV **All over the world** this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.

The Gospel spread is because "it's really good news!

It's not bad news. It's really good news – no, it's *great* news.

The Resurrection is the **central event of world history, the moment towards which everything was rushing and from which everything emerges new.**

At the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth a shock wave swept through the world, so that **despite appearances the world is in fact a different place, full of new possibilities, previously unimagined.**

## II. The **Gift** and the **Shift** is Huge — “Get it!” (God having Fun!)

### A. *Turns Panic into Worship*

John 20:11 NIV but *Mary stood outside the tomb crying.*

*Mary has devotion, courage & grief, but no resurrection.*

15 “Woman,” he said, “**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.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

**Jesus is not immediately recognized!** or in the evening on the **road to Emmaus**, or the later time, **cooking breakfast by the shore.**

The first Christians weren’t prepared for what actually happened. Nobody could have been. ...

### B. *Disappointment into Revelation*

Luke 24:31 NIV ***Then their eyes were opened*** and they recognized him, and ***he disappeared*** from their sight. 32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

### C. *Fears into Shalom*

**John 20:19 NIV** On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the **doors locked for fear of the Jews**, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "**Peace** be with you!" **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were **overjoyed** when they saw the Lord.

(**Luke 24:41** ...they still **did not believe it because of joy and amazement**, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate it in their presence.)

**21** Again Jesus said, "**Peace** be with you! As the Father has **sent** me, **I am sending you.**" **22** And with that he breathed on them and said, "**Receive the Holy Spirit.**

#### **D. Doubt into Faith**

**John 20:24 NIV** Now Thomas ...**25** ... 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 it."

**26** **A week later** (8 Days) 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!" **27** 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.**" **28** Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

### **III. The REALLY Good News**

**1 Cor 15:20 NIV** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came **through a man**, the **resurrection** of the dead comes also **through a man**. **22** For as in Adam all die, so **in Christ all will be made alive.**

**24** Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has **destroyed** all dominion, authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies

under his feet. 26 ***The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*** ... 28  
When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

***The Victory! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!***