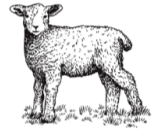


# Easter

Post Falls Campus | April 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> | Jim Putman



## Transformation Through Encounter with Jesus

- If Jesus' life ended with his shameful death, then how would this have impacted the people listed in our series?
- If Jesus was just a man, then his opinion alone didn't impact objective reality for these people
- If Jesus was not the Son of God as they had thought, then, added to their pre-event identity, you would have to add fool, naïve, easily deceived
- Before → What Jesus Said → Who They Became (Before the Cross)

Person	Who They Were Before the Encounter	What Jesus Said to Them	Who They Became (Before the Cross)
The woman at the well	Social outcast, ashamed, relationally broken	"If you knew the gift of God..." / "Whoever drinks the water I give..." / "I, the one speaking to you—I am he" (John 4:10, 14, 26)	Hopeful, spiritually awakened, and bold enough to tell her whole town about Jesus
Nicodemus	Respected Pharisee, religious, but confused about true life with God	"You must be born again" / "The Son of Man must be lifted up" (John 3:3, 14)	A seeking disciple—still cautious, but moving toward belief and publicly defending Jesus (John 7:50–51)
Zacchaeus	Greedy, dishonest, and rejected by his community	"Zacchaeus, come down... I must stay at your house" / "Today salvation has come..." (Luke 19:5, 9)	Repentant, generous, and restored—eager to make things right
Woman with the issue of blood	Sick, isolated, ceremonially unclean, and desperate	"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace" (Mark 5:34)	Restored, at peace, publicly affirmed, and no longer hiding in shame
Peter	Impulsive, self-confident, unstable, yet drawn to Jesus	"Follow me" / "From now on you will fish for people" (Luke 5:10; Matt. 4:19)	A committed disciple—still imperfect, but all-in, leaving everything to follow Jesus
The criminals on the crosses	Guilty, condemned, and without hope	"Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43)	One becomes humble and faith-filled even in his final moments; the other remains hardened
John the Baptist	Bold prophet, misunderstood, eventually imprisoned	"Among those born of women, there is no one greater than John" (Luke 7:28)	Affirmed and strengthened in identity as the forerunner who prepared the way
Mary, mother of Jesus	Faithful but grieving, watching her Son suffer	"Dear woman, here is your son..." (John 19:26)	Cared for within a new spiritual family; remained faithful even in confusion and pain
Mary Magdalene	Delivered from deep oppression, once broken and marginalized	(Implied through relationship and deliverance; later "Mary" in John 20:16)	Devoted follower—faithful, present, and committed to Jesus even at the cross
Mary of Bethany	Devoted, perceptive, but misunderstood by others	"It was intended that she should save this perfume..." / "Wherever the gospel is preached..." (John 12:7; Mark 14:9)	A bold worshiper—acting in faith and insight, honoring Jesus before His burial

## Key Insight

- Jesus' resurrection validates everything He said and did.
- Without the resurrection:
  - All their new identities and transformations would not be real.
  - Their faith and hope would be based on a lie.
  - They would have been deceived by a false teacher or charlatan.
  - When Jesus was crucified, it would have canceled their new lives, left them in despair

The Disciples, after the Resurrection, became flawed but confident messengers

- When we next see the disciples all together, their transformation is obvious:
- Not hiding
- Not afraid
- Confident
- Purposeful

Question:

How did this transformation happen?

Where do we find them after the resurrection?

**Acts 1:12–17 (NIV) | Acts 2:1–4 (NIV) | Acts 4:23–31 (NIV)**

But the Apostles tell us what happened

**1 Corinthians 15:1–12 (NIV)**

Non-believing scholars agree that the witnesses believed they had seen the risen Jesus.

Paula Fredriksen (Jewish historian, not Christian believer)

“I know in their own terms what they saw was the raised Jesus. That’s what they say, and then all the historical evidence we have afterward attests to their conviction that that’s what they saw.”

Gerd Lüdemann (Atheist / skeptic)

“It may be taken as historically certain that Peter and the disciples had experiences after Jesus’s death in which Jesus appeared to them as the risen Christ.”

