

This Changes Everything

(John 20:24-31)

Introduction

Sports fans will occasionally hear a commentator make a statement like, “That play call was a game changer. A “game changer” is a person, an event, or a decision that radically affects the outcome of a sporting event.

The resurrection of Jesus was the ultimate game changer.

- 1) Validates His Death
- 2) Validates His Mission
- 3) Validates His Future Return

Contextualize John 20.

I. Unbelief of Thomas (v. 24-25)

A) Absence of Thomas (v. 24)

(Rehearse events of that first Easter)

B) Admonition of the Disciples (v. 25a)

C) Adamant Unbelief (v. 25b)

(Thomas was not denying the existence of Jesus, the miracles of Jesus, or the reality of his death, but rather His resurrection.)

Note: *Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed.” – John Stott.*

Note: *The resurrection is an equal part of the Gospel. Without it the gospel is incomplete and Christ’s followers are no different than any other religious fanatic in the world.*

II. Confrontation of Thomas (v.26-27)

A) Appearance of Jesus

B) Invitation of Jesus

C) Challenge of Jesus

Note: *The resurrection is a real event, that was commonly accepted as true among early Christians, in a culture that did not believe in resurrection.*

1) Eye-witness accounts

2) Letter by Justin Martyr (early Christian apologist)

3) Non-relenting of disciples even under martyrdom

3) Changed lives

III. Confession of Thomas (v. 28-29)

A) Surrender

B) Commitment

Note: *God wants us not just to believe in Jesus' resurrection, but to be transformed by it and to receive the power we need to live the way we know we ought.*

Conclusion (v. 30-31)