



Growing Faith

22 - Spring | 15 April 2024

Seven words that changed everything...for everyone.

Written by Ian Lancaster from Christians in Sport

There are some words, uttered by people around us that have really shaped our life experience so far...

"You've passed"

"You've been selected"

"Here are the keys".

There are words, that have changed the course of history for the people of the world...

"I had a dream" (Martin Luther King - fighting for equality)

"That's one small step for man. One giant leap for mankind" (Neal Armstrong – first man on the moon)

"Today we thank Almighty God for a great deliverance" (King George VI – VE Day speech)

But none of these words come close to the significance and scope of seven words uttered from a man in white...

We need to head back to that first Easter Sunday morning. The writers of the gospel accounts record their version of the unfolding events. It's high drama, like a suspense thriller!

Jesus had died. That's irrefutable. Every credible historian throughout history has since confirmed this as truth.

In Mark 16 we see the women who followed Jesus heading to his tomb with perfume, as was custom to anoint a dead body before the final burial. They were not expecting the sight that greeted them – The stone had been rolled away and inside the inner chamber of the tomb a man dressed all in white was sitting.

In the middle of his short speech to the women he utters seven words that, if true, change the course of history forever.

"He has risen! He is not here."

See what the man is claiming about Jesus. Jesus has been raised...not resuscitated. Jesus is alive...not dead. Jesus is not in the tomb...He's walked out of here with new life.

They're huge claims that billions of Christians around the world believe in today and have celebrated this Easter time.

Why does the truth claim about the resurrection of Jesus matter? Why should we all pay careful attention to it?

The resurrection was the conclusive proof that all that Jesus had set out to do at the cross had been done.

The cross was the act of forgiveness. It shows that forgiveness is necessary for all and that forgiveness is possible, through trusting in Jesus sacrificial death as the act of rescue for mankind.

And those magnificent seven words mean, for those trusting in Jesus, that death does not have the last word. There is hope in new resurrected life.

Seven words that change everything...for those who trust.

That's surely worth considering?



Youth Church Reflection

by D Ley, Year 12

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

Acts 4:13 NIV

We often shy away from being bold and talking about Jesus with those around us, thinking “I don’t know all the right words”, or “What if they have a tricky question?”. These are all valid thoughts, but we are putting the focus on the wrong thing. We don’t have everything, but what we do have is Jesus, and he is the best we have. When we share him, the power isn’t in how we share but in who we share, and that’s Jesus. John and Peter knew this and they were bold enough to share Jesus with the very people who had crucified Jesus.

Neither of them were well educated and this verse above emphasises that they were just ordinary people. Peter even denied Jesus three times not long before this all took place. But as before, his boldness wasn’t based on who he was, but based on who Jesus was.

Peter had the Holy Spirit, who God gives to all who ask him and he knew that he was completely forgiven. It was this power in the name of Jesus that made Peter and John bold, and the same power of Jesus can make us bold too.

We can bold in whatever it is that we do, whether it is praying for someone, setting up a Christian union, sharing Jesus with our friends, or just in general making the decision to live fully for Jesus.

Church Support

Church Services

Please visit these church websites to see when their services are taking place:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship: [Website](#)

St John’s and St Augustine’s Church, Huncoat: [YouTube channel](#)

St Peter and St Paul’s Church, Rishton: [Facebook Page](#)

St. John’s Church, Baxenden: [Website](#)

Peel Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

Ernest Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

All Saints Church, Clayton-le-Moors: [Facebook Page](#)

A song for reflection



Here I am to worship
by Hillsong Worship

A Prayer

By Elodie and Maddie, Year 8

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for forgiving our sins.

We thank you for this life that you have given us.

You gave up your life for us to live in this world.

Amen

St James’ Church, Clitheroe: [Website](#)

Burnley Life Church: [Website](#)

St Mary Magdalen’s Church, Accrington: [Website](#)


St Andrew’s Church, Accrington: [Website](#)


St Peter’s Church, Accrington: [Website](#)

Brave Church: [Website](#)

Trinity Church, Great Harwood: [Website](#)



 **Queens Road West
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 4AY**

 **01254 232 992**
 c.pountain@st-christophers.org

 www.st-christophers.org

