



I. Transformations TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO

During Jesus' lifetime, one group that did not accept His divinity was His family. When they heard about His ministry of healing, casting out demons and preaching about God's kingdom – they actually thought He was “out of His mind.” These are the exact words the gospel writer Mark used to describe Jesus' family's opinion about Him. “When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, ‘He is out of his mind’.”

In Mark 3:31 we get more details of who the gospel writer was referring to as 'his family.'

“Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived.” It was his mother and half-brothers- the children of Mary and Joseph. Half-brothers because Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and not Joseph.

It is not until Jesus' death and resurrection do we see Jesus' family become believers who join the disciples and worship Him in the upper room as mentioned in Acts 1:14. “They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.”

James was one of his unbelieving brothers. The miracles of healing, exorcising spirits, feeding thousands with a couple of loaves and fishes, preaching God's kingdom and challenging religious hypocrisy had no impact on James during Jesus' lifetime. But, after His death and resurrection he writes, “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Jas 1:1a) How did such a huge transformation take place in James life?

The answer to how transformation took place in Jesus family as well as his disciples and Paul is found in the first letter to the Corinthians.

Let me quote a passage written by Paul that provides the full context.

“For what I received I passed on to you: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve.

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sister, most of whom are still living,

though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also.” (1 Cor 15:3-8)

Encountering the risen Christ has been a way many people from the time of Jesus' family till today have come to believe or grow in Christ.

While having a personal encounter or seeing a vision of Christ and then believing is great;

the majority of Christians have believed Him without seeing Him.

But, they have encountered Jesus through God's word - Bible, through the witness and sharing of the gospel by Christians, through answered prayers and so on.

Though, I came from a Christian family, until my family's faith became my faith personally – I could not really call myself a follower of Christ.

The transformation of putting my faith in Christ happened largely from Jesus revealing Himself, as I read God's word in the Bible which my wife Shammi encouraged me to do consistently.

While we all would love to have a physical encounter with the risen Christ to believe or grow in our faith, Jesus himself had something else to say. "Then Jesus told Thomas, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; but blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

In the coming weeks, we will journey through the book written by and bearing the name of Jesus' brother James. I pray that each of us will encounter Jesus on the way and be transformed, so that we begin to live "Just like Jesus."

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