BELIEVE Easter Sunday April 20, 2014

"Jesus said to Thomas, 'You believe because you've seen me. Blessed are those who haven't seen me but believe.'" John 20:29

A change in belief results in _

"¹³That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. ¹⁵In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. ¹⁶But they were not able to recognize who he was." Luke 24:13-16

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"17He asked, 'What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?' They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. ¹⁸Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, 'Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?' ¹⁹He said, 'What has happened?' They said, 'The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. ²⁰Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. ²¹And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. ²²But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb ²³ and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. ²⁴Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus.'" Luke 24:17-24

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"25 Then he said to them, 'So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said? ²⁶Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?' ²⁷Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him." Luke 24:25-27

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"²⁸They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on ²⁹but they pressed him: 'Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done.' So he went in with them. ³⁰And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. ³¹At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared." Luke 24:28-31

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"³²Back and forth they talked. 'Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?' ³³They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, ³⁴talking away: 'It's really happened! The Master has been raised up — Simon saw him!' ³⁵Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread." Luke 24:32-35

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