

## A GREAT SAVIOR . . . A HUMBLE SERVANT

### STUDY TWO

## A Resurrected Christ . . . A Transformed Life

*John 11, 14, and 20*

*If you've got questions, ask them. If you've got reservations, say so. There is nothing wrong with either. What's wrong is sitting in silent unbelief, acting like you get it, acting like you go along with it when, in fact, you don't. Thomas didn't do that, and he's a pretty good model to follow.*

—Charles R. Swindoll

As we approach the Easter celebration, our hearts joyfully turn to thoughts of Christ's resurrection. He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Those are the words exclaimed by countless believers around the world each Easter. But we have the benefit of reading the witness of centuries of faithful followers telling of God's gracious gift of new life. What if you were among the first to hear of the empty tomb? What would be your response? Would you so quickly believe? Or would you remain, like Thomas, shrouded by doubts?



### PREPARE YOUR HEART

*Come close to God, and God will come close to you. (James 4:8)*

The Easter season provides a wonderful time to renew our earnest commitment to our Savior—to reestablish a time when we draw near to Him daily with the promise that He will draw near to us. Take a few moments and bow in prayer before the risen Jesus. Invite Him to reveal Himself anew through His Word and to draw you to experience the power of His resurrection.



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Copyright © 2019 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

A Resurrected Christ . . . A Transformed Life

John 11, 14, and 20



YOUR TURN IN THE SCRIPTURES

Take time to read John chapters 11, 14, and 20. Read slowly and reflectively as if reading these great passages for the first time. God desires to speak to you from His Word, so each time you read, you should *read with expectation and confidence*. Make some notes about your impressions as you read.



**Observation: Three Scenes—A Snapshot of Thomas**

According to the *Searching the Scriptures* method of Bible study, we observe the text by looking for words or sections that are compared, contrasted, emphasized, repeated, or related. We look at key places, dialogue, and central ideas, such as the overall principle. In the three scenes Chuck Swindoll examined, take time from each to do some careful observation.

**Scene 1: The Raising of Lazarus—John 11**

In this story, Thomas was among the disciples, listening to and watching Jesus as He responded to the tragic news of Lazarus' death.

Let's trace the events as they unfold. One way to use observation is by paying attention to dialogue. What is being said can unlock clues to the meaning of a passage. Let's focus on the words of Jesus to put together a snapshot of Thomas' response.

In John 11:7, Jesus "said to his disciples, 'Let's go back to Judea.'" What is significant about Jesus' desire to go back to Judea?



**A Resurrected Christ . . . A Transformed Life**

*John 11, 14, and 20*

How did the disciples respond to Jesus' plan (John 11:8)? How would you explain their response?

How does Thomas' response to going back to Judea contrast with the reaction of the other disciples (11:16)?

*Thomas refused to be influenced by the majority of those around him. —Chuck Swindoll*

**Scene 2: The Upper Room in Jerusalem—John 14**

In this scene, the gospel writer focused on Jesus' explanation for returning to Jerusalem. His words sound cryptic, but there is enough understanding to cause uncertainty and anxiety among the ranks of Jesus' closest companions.

*“Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” (John 14:1–2)*

What about Jesus' words likely stirred anxiety in the hearts of His followers?



A Resurrected Christ . . . A Transformed Life

*John 11, 14, and 20*

Would you characterize His words as vague or clear? (HINT: Think about the context!)

How did Thomas respond (John 14:5)?

Does Thomas' response reveal doubt or realism? Explain your answer?

*Thomas refused to act like he understood what was unclear and strange. —Chuck Swindoll*



**Interpretation: Transforming Doubt to Faith**

At times, the meaning of a passage is made plain by the passage itself—in other words, either through dialogue or the author's clear interpretation. The third scene Chuck examined sheds light on the meaning of John's focus on Thomas.

**Scene 3: Not Long after Jesus' Resurrection—John 20**

Read John 20:24–30. In this remarkable passage of Scripture, John described the stirring scene when Jesus appeared to His disciples—except for Thomas—following His resurrection. Naturally, they were huddled in a closed room in fear for their lives. Once they realized they had seen the Lord, they sought out Thomas to declare to him what they had seen (John 20:25).



A Resurrected Christ . . . A Transformed Life

*John 11, 14, and 20*

How did Thomas respond to this report (John 20:25)?

What does this response reveal about Thomas' mind-set regarding Jesus' resurrection?

*Thomas refused to accept what his mind could not perceive and his heart could not believe.*  
—Chuck Swindoll

Tenderly, Jesus greeted Thomas and invited him to put his hands in His wounded side and to observe the wounds in His hands (20:27).

In response, Thomas declared, “My Lord and my God!” (20:28). Thomas moved from being stuck in his disbelief to making a bold appeal to faith! What impact do you feel Thomas' words had on the other disciples?

Jesus' final words in John 20 reveal the ultimate interpretation of this masterful biblical scene.

*Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.” (20:29)*



A Resurrected Christ . . . A Transformed Life

*John 11, 14, and 20*

What do Jesus' words mean for individuals today who've never seen Him in the flesh but who are confronted with evidence of His resurrection through the witness of Scripture?



**Correlation: Declaring Him Lord**

Correlation compares other passages of Scripture to help interpret the passage in view. At the close of his gospel, John provided a mission statement of sorts that explains his reason for writing his message:

*The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name. (John 20:30–31)*

How did Thomas' story help John fulfill his mission in writing his book, the gospel of John?



**Application: What about You and Me?**

Application moves us from maintaining a mere intellectual understanding of a passage to allowing truth to penetrate the heart. The only response to this story of transformation is to believe!

*Oh, listen to me—especially all of you who are like Thomas among us: You are your own person, but the Lord wants you to be His. Yes, you are independent and strong-willed, but the Lord wants you to surrender to Him. You've refused to accept until now. Accept Him now! He is risen! He is risen, indeed! —Chuck Swindoll*



A Resurrected Christ . . . A Transformed Life

*John 11, 14, and 20*



A FINAL PRAYER

*Father, how I praise You for raising Jesus from the dead! And I praise You for dealing patiently and kindly with me even when I remain stubbornly bound by my doubts and fears. Thank You, Father, for extending Your kindness, which ultimately led me to repent and to believe. I give You my life, my all. In the name of the resurrected Jesus, amen.*



# A GREAT SAVIOR . . . A HUMBLE SERVANT

## STUDY TWO

SEARCHING  
THE  
SCRIPTURES

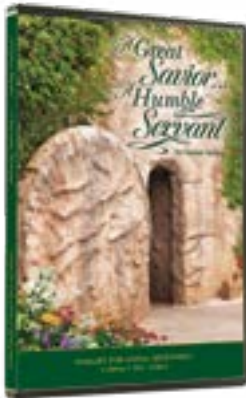
STUDY

## A Resurrected Christ . . . A Transformed Life

*John 11, 14, and 20*



### Tools for Digging Deeper



**A Great Savior . . .  
A Humble Servant**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
CD series



**Sunday to Sunday**  
by Charles R. Swindoll and  
Insight for Living Ministries  
softcover book



**Suddenly One Morning**  
Radio Theater  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
single CD

For these and related resources, visit [www.insightworld.org/store](http://www.insightworld.org/store)  
or call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK +44 1306 640156

For the 2019 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Mark Tobey in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of Pastoral Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



Copyright © 2019 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.  
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

S02  
8