Sermon Notes for April 5, 2015

A Day of Joy and Victory

John 20

Introduction

“The resurrection is God’s Amen! to Christ’s statement, ‘It is finished.’”  S. Lewis Johnson

“He was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord!”  Romans 1:4

Because Jesus lives, there are three things that are true for every believer.

I. We have a solid faith that is rooted in history. John 20:1-9

Christianity invites us to examine the evidence.

Very early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. Verse 1

The women came to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body with spices.

They were not expecting a resurrection.

Peter and John ran to the tomb. Verse 3

Peter was puzzled. Why were the grave clothes still here?

The Greek word used (keimena) means that they were carefully placed in order.

It was like the body had simply vanished.

John saw and believed. Verse 8

There are three words used for sight in this text.

- Blepo – verse 1 – ordinary sight.
- Theoreo – verse 6 – to see and think
- Orao – verse 8 – to see and understand.

They didn’t understand all of it yet, but the light was beginning to dawn.

Josh McDowell’s story – meeting Mr. Cobb.

- Legal-historical proof is based on showing that something is factual beyond a reasonable doubt.
- Legal-historical proof depends upon three types of testimony, which are oral testimony, written testimony and exhibits.
“I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God has given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead.” Professor Thomas Arnold, Oxford University

“I know pretty well what evidence is; and I tell you, such evidence as that for the Resurrection has never broken down yet.” Lord Lyndhurst, recognized as one of the greatest minds in British history.

“The evidence points unmistakably to the fact that on the third day Jesus rose. In its favor as a living truth there exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true.” Lord Darling, former Chief Justice of England.

II. We have a saving faith. John 20:11-18

As the disciples went back to their homes, Mary stood at the tomb weeping.

It wasn’t until Jesus called her by name that she recognized him.

She called out to him, Rabboni, which means teacher.

“Go to my brothers.”

“I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”

One of the greatest proofs for the truth of Christ and the reality of his resurrection is the changed lives of Christians.

III. We have a triumphant faith. John 20:19-31

The disciples met in secret that night for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them.

They were overjoyed when they saw him.

One week later, Jesus came to Thomas and said, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

“My Lord and my God!”

These were the men who went out and turned the world upside down.

Jesus has triumphed over sin and death and Satan. When we walk with him in the power of the Holy Spirit, his victory is our victory too.

Conclusion

We have a solid faith that is rooted in history.
We have a saving faith that can save us from our sins.
We have a triumphant faith that can overcome any obstacle.
All because of Jesus.
Do you know him as your Savior and Lord?

“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:30-31