Introduction

“The church didn’t create the resurrection. The resurrection created the church.” Darrell L. Bock

On that first resurrection Sunday, the greatest skeptics were Jesus’ own disciples.

This passage is how they went from doubt to faith.

I. Three Surprising Encounters.

The women at the tomb. Verses 1-12

- The stone is rolled away.
- The tomb is empty.
- Two angels appear.
- Women as the first witnesses.

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Verses 13-35

- Cleopas – Jesus’ uncle, the brother of Joseph.
- Jesus comes up to them and they do not recognize him.

The disciples in Jerusalem. Verses 36-49

- Meeting behind locked doors for fear of the Jews.
- Suddenly Jesus appears to them.

II. Three Movements from doubt to faith.

All follow the same pattern.

- Doubt or confusion.
- Rebuke or correction.
- Instruction – pointing to the Scriptures.
- Witness – Go and tell.

The women at the tomb.

- Confusion – what happened here?
- Rebuke – Why do you look for the living among the dead?
- Instruction – Remember how he told you.
- Witness – They go and tell the disciples.
The two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

- Discouraged and confused – We had hoped.
- Rebuke – How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe.
- Instruction – Beginning with Moses and the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.
- Witness – They go and tell the eleven.

The disciples in Jerusalem.

- Confusion – They don’t know what to make of the reports.
- Rebuke – Why are you troubled and why do doubts rise in your minds?
- Instruction – This is what I told you while I was still with you.
- Witness – You are witnesses, but wait for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon you.

III. Three Great Openings.

Jesus opens the Scriptures. Verses 27 and 32

- Do you want to know Jesus? Read the Scriptures!

Jesus opens our eyes. Verse 30

- Jesus comes to us in the ordinary circumstances of our lives.

Jesus opens our minds. Verse 45

- He enables us to see and understand who he is and what he has done for us.

Conclusion

The Wright Brothers by David McCullough.

“If they will not take our word and the word of many witnesses…we do not think they will be convinced until they see a flight with their own eyes.” Wilbur Wright

No one today would doubt that Orville and Wilbur Wright were first in flight.

No one today should doubt the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If you have questions or doubts, come and see. Read the Scriptures.

If you are ready to follow Jesus, come to him today.

“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ And believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9