

April 4, 2021

“It’s Hard to Believe”

I. The disciples had a hard time believing.

The women at the tomb.

5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed [their] faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 "saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' " 8 And they remembered His words. 9 Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary [the mother] of James, and the other [women] with them, who told these things to the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. - **Luke 24:5-11 NKJV**

Peter and John at the tomb

8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes. - **John 20:8-10 NKJV**

The two on the road to Emmaus

33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those [who were] with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 And they told about the things [that had happened] on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread. - **Luke 24:33-35 NKJV**

13 And they went and told [it] to the rest, [but] they did not believe them either. - **Mark 16:13 NKJV**

The disciples in the upper room.

41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took [it] and ate in their presence. - **Luke 24:41-43 NKJV**

Thomas in the upper room.

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed [are] those who have not seen and [yet] have believed." - **John 20:29 NKJV**

II. Why are the cross and resurrection important?

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

- **Colossians 2:13-14 NKJV**

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching [is] empty and your faith [is] also empty. ... 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith [is] futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ... 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, [and] has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. - **1 Corinthians 15:14, 17-18, 20 NKJV**

III. What will you do?