

which they had so often heard when their Master was with them, their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. Just then He vanished from their sight. Immediately their appetites left them! They could no longer think of eating! They wanted to get back to the other disciples as fast as possible. They rushed back to Jerusalem. There they found all the apostles gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed and has appeared to Simon." Soon Jesus appeared to all the disciples together and gave them many additional proofs of the fact that He had been raised from the dead. These appearances continued during the next six weeks.

The little band of men had been scattered and discouraged; their lives had seemed utterly ruined because their beloved Leader had suffered such a humiliating death, but only a few days after His death a complete change occurred in their attitude. They went out with energy and determination, going into all the world and declaring that this Jesus who had died was risen again, proving that He was indeed God's Son and the Saviour of all the world. No persecution was able to stop them or to destroy their work. Their confidence was unshakable. The tidings which they carried were spread from them to others, and passed on to still others, until the whole Roman Empire came to believe that Jesus Christ had died for the sins of His people and that God had indeed raised Him from the dead. This change in the disciples is one of the most striking events in ancient history. Careful examination of all the evidence leaves no other way to account for it than that the resurrection of Christ is an actual fact.

In the Old Testament people were commanded to observe the seventh day of the week as a day of rest and of service to God. The Christians very soon changed this observance to the first day of the week, in commemoration of the resurrection of their Lord on that day. Sometimes people think of the resurrection of Christ as something to be celebrated only at Easter. This is utterly wrong. Every observance of Sunday by the Christian church is properly a commemoration of the resurrection of Christ from the dead. This great historic change of the day of rest is further evidence of the fact that He lives again.