**Sermon Title: The Bribery to Dismiss the Resurrection**

**Sermon Text: Matthew 28:1-15**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to the realization of the Heavenly and hellish agenda related to the Resurrection.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 testimonial agendas related to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

**Introduction:** In spite of the repeated teachings of Jesus, it is clear that His followers had no expectations that He would rise from the dead. The resurrection came as a surprise to them. Three elements are fairly consistent in all the accounts, the empty tomb, the announcement of the resurrection to the women, the meeting of the Disciples with the Risen One.

**I. The Heavenly testimony of the Resurrection. vv.1-8**

**II. The Holy One’s testimony of the Resurrection. vv.9-10**

**III. The Hellish testimony of the Resurrection. vv.11-15**

**I. The Heavenly testimony of the Resurrection. vv.1-8**

 A. The **timing** of the Heavenly testimony. V.1

 B. The **transcendence** of the Heavenly testimony. Vv.2-4

 The rolling away of the stone was not so Jesus could get out, but that the women may look in. What had been an obstacle for the women, was no more than a place to sit for the angel.

 C. The **transmission** of the Heavenly testimony. Vv.5-8

 The angel’s focus is on the women, not the guards. He is there to help them and transmit a message, their mission is in vain, “He has been raised,” just as He said He would many times.

 **Luke 24:5-8** 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.

**II. The Holy One’s testimony of the Resurrection. vv.9-10**

 A. Belief in the resurrection should lead to **rejoicing**. V.9a

 **1 Corinthians 15:20-22** But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

 B. Belief in the resurrection should lead to **worship**. V.9b

 **1 Peter 1:3-4** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

 **Revelation 1:17-18** And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. **18** "I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

 **John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

 **John 14:19** "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

 **Philippians 2:10-11** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11** and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

 C. Belief in the resurrection should lead to **witnessing**. V.10

 **1 Corinthians 15:13-14** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. **14** And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty.

 **Church - Acts 2:23-24** "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have takenby lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; **24** "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

 **Jews - Acts 4:10** "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole

 **Gentiles - Acts 10:40** "Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly,

 **Matthew 26:32** "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

**III. The Hellish testimony of the Resurrection. vv.11-15**

 A. The Hellish **report** on the resurrection. v.11

 B. The Hellish **rejection** of the resurrection. v.12-15.

 1. Many people reject the resurrection and all other supernatural elements of Scripture.

 2. Many people reject because humanistic philosophy considers man’s mind be the truth of reality.

 3. Many people are simply indifferent.

 4. Many people are intentionally hostile.

**Conclusion:** The central event of the climax, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is also the central event of God’s redemptive history. The resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, and everything that we re and have and hope to be is predicted on its reality. There would be no Christianity if there were no resurrection.

 The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single greatest event in the history of the world. It is so foundational to Christianity that no one who denies it can be a true Christian. Without the resurrection there is no Christian faith, no salvation, and no (future) hope!

[The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Matthew 24-28, p. 304-305]

(**1 Corinthians 15:13-14**)