

**A DEAD CHRIST DISTURBS NO ONE:
BUT A LIVING ONE DOES
Matthew 27:62-28:20**

Introduction:

- A. *If you were asked to choose the most pitiful scene after the crucifixion of Jesus, which would you choose?*
1. *The scattered and frightened disciples...*
 2. *The caravan of weeping women who bore His body to the tomb...*
 3. *The broken-hearted Mary*
 4. *The lifeless body of Jesus taken down the cross...*
 5. *All of these are indeed sad....*
- B. *I think I would choose the little band of Roman soldiers standing guard at the tomb of Jesus.*
1. *Just obeying orders....*
 2. *Just soldiers commanded to do a task...*
 3. *Just waiting three days to go home...*
 4. *Who were they?*
 - a. *Perhaps one was just a youth....*
 - 1) *Homesick for home or sweetheart...*
 - 2) *"I can hardly wait until this is over..."*
 - b. *Maybe another was a scarred veterans whose many encounters with death caused him to regard life as cheap.*
 - c. *Maybe another was a soldier who for the right price would do anything and say anything.*
 4. *What were they thinking?*
 - a. *Or were they thinking?*
 - b. *Bored is probably a better word...*
 - c. *The tomb has been sealed...*
 - d. *Orders have been given to keep watch...that's all they knew...*

5. *One thing we know, never in the history of the world did soldiers have so hopeless a task....*
 - a. *We would laugh were it not so sad...*
 - b. *Unknown to them, this routine assignment was about turn into the world's most glorious day.*
 6. *Two angels were winging their way from the portals of glory to declare to the world, "He is not here, for He is risen."*
- C. *Three voices were heard that first resurrection morning – the same we hear today....*
1. *Voice of Prejudice – "He must not rise..."*
 2. *Voice of Denial – "He did not rise..."*
 3. *Voice of Truth – "He is risen..."*

I. The Voice of Prejudice ("He must not rise...")

- A. *Voice of the chief priest and Pharisees...*
1. *They were widely separated on theology...*
 2. *Greatest difference – resurrection...*
 - a. *Sadducees – denied it...*
 - b. *Pharisees – affirmed it...*
- B. *Matthew 27:62 "...they came together..."*
1. *Why? – to prevent the resurrection....*
 2. *Why would the Pharisees not want Jesus to be resurrected?*
 - a. *They had asked Jesus for a sign of His deity....*
 - b. *The sign Jesus gave was His resurrection.*
 - c. *The Pharisees forgot about their differences in light of their common problem....*
 3. *Jesus must not rise.....*

C. *They are the ones that asked Pilate for a guard*

1. *Matthew 27:64*
2. *Pilate granted the guard....*
 - a. *Was he also afraid Jesus might rise..?*
 - b. *"Seal the tomb..."*
 - 1) *"...make it as sure as you can..."*
 - 2) *"...set Roman's military seal on it.."*
 - 3) *"...put a guard on duty ..."*
 - c. *"Jesus must not rise."*

D. *This attitude to us seems so long ago and far away....but is it?*

1. *Many today say of Jesus, "He must not rise..."*
2. *Why did they want to keep Jesus in the tomb? (For that matter, why do we?)*
 - a. *A risen Jesus would prove the enormity of their sin....*
 - b. *Expose them....*
 - c. *As long as Jesus is dead, they are safe:*
 - 1) *Pilate could go on being governor as if he had done no wrong....*
 - 2) *The Sadducees could boast of their claim of no resurrection....*
 - 3) *The Pharisees could continue debating their theology.....*
 - 4) *Everything is great and let it go....*
3. *A dead Jesus on a cross or in a tomb, disturbs no one.....*
 - a. *We hang Him on a chain....*
 - 1) *about our necks....*
 - 2) *on our walls...*
 - 3) *point to Him as our Savior...*
 - b. *It makes us feel so religious, so respectable, so complacent...*
 - c. *We bow before Him and pay Him lip service and go our way....*
 - 1) *But – we leave Him there....*

2) *A dead Christ on a cross or in a tomb is so convenient....*

4. *But A Living Lord!*

a. *Breaks into our man-made plans...*

b. *Reminds us of:*

1) *Work to be done...*

2) *Sins to be confessed...*

3) *Lifestyles to be changed...*

4) *Injustices to be overcome...*

5) *Sacrifices to be made...*

c. *A living Lord Jesus Christ, gets in our way....*

E. *So, what do we do?*

1. *Make as sure as we can that Jesus does not rise and become a living presence in our lives....*

a. *"I'm a believer, but I am not a fanatic."*

b. *So, some roll back the stone occasionally, peak in, roll it back....*

c. *On Sunday:*

1) *Utter a prayer....*

2) *Sing a hymn....*

3) *Listen to a sermon...*

4) *Seal is renewed until next Sunday...*

2. *It is almost as if we forget or do not realize the person with whom we had fellowship...*

a. *Like the disciples on the Emmaus Road...*

b. *Unconscious fellowship...*

3. *Do not close the tomb and say, "He must not rise..." – The Voice of Prejudice*

4. *This morning, let Jesus become the risen Lord of your life, the source of your strength and supply of your joy....*

II. The Voice of Denial

A. *The Voice of the Soldiers: "He did not rise."*

1. *The soldiers ran to the chief priest ...*
 - a. *The chief priest took council and bribed the soldiers....*
 - b. *Told them to say, His disciples stole His body while they were sleeping..."*
 - 1) *If they were sleeping, how could they know...?*
 - 2) *The whole story is cut from the cloth of deceit.*
 2. *The same ones who bribed and gave money to crucify Jesus, now bribe to belie His resurrection....*
- B. *How do you explain why these Sadducees and even modern ones, deny the resurrection?*
1. *The Sadducees were rationalist...*
 - a. *If they could not reason a thing, then it could not be...*
 - b. *Like today's age of reasoning....*
 2. *Well, what's wrong with facts? Were there any facts in regard to Christ's resurrection?*
 - a. *What about all the OT prophecies?*
 - b. *What about the prophecy of Jesus...?*
 - c. *What about the occupied and sealed tomb...?*
 - d. *What about the soldier's report...?*
 - e. *What about the empty tomb, the grave cloths lying in orderly form...*
 - f. *What about the transformed disciples..?*
 - g. *What about 500 eye witnesses...?*
 3. *The Sadducees say the dead do not rise:therefore, Jesus did not rise...*
 - a. *The report of the soldiers...?*
 - b. *The empty tomb...?*
 - c. *The transformed disciples...?*
 - d. *2000 years of Christians history....?*
 - e. *Changed lives...?*
 4. *Many things have to be ignored if one ignores the resurrection....*
 5. *Modern Sadducees continue to close their eyes and their hearts to the greatest truth the world has ever experienced...*
 - a. *Major media networks continue to run so called "documentaries" on Christ's death...*

- b. *Their minds are closed to truth because their hearts are closed to God...*
- C. *Some teach Christ's body did not rise, but that His spirit lives on in history...*
 - 1. *That's a round about way of saying the same thing....*
 - 2. *Over 300 years before Christ, Plato taught that the spirit was everything, the body nothing....*
 - a. *The soul lived on, the body died...*
 - b. *Paul was combating this philosophy in I Corinthians 15 when he says that "...Christ was seen..."*
 - 3. *Now it is your choice:*
 - a. *The Sadducees or The Savior*
 - b. *Plato or Paul*
 - c. *The new age prejudice of men or the NT revelation of God.*
- D. *The Voice of Prejudice*
The Voice of Denial

III. The Voice of Truth

- A. *The voice of the angel*
 - 1. *The religious leaders did all they could to keep the body of Jesus in the tomb....*
 - a. *sealed it...*
 - b. *set a guard about it...*
 - 2. *God overruled...*
 - 3. *The angel did not roll away the stone to let Jesus out....*
 - 4. *The resurrected Christ is now in His glorified body....*
 - a. *Not subject to time....*
 - b. *Space...*
 - c. *The Roman Soldiers, Pilate, Sadducees nor Pharisees....*
 - 5. *Matthew 28:6*
 - a. *"...where he lay..."*

b. not "...where he lies..."

B. A Living Lord means that we can live also...

1. We can live spiritually.... "Ye who were dead hath he quickened..."
2. "Because I live ye shall live also..."
3. The Bible records Jesus raising three to life again:

a. Jairus' daughter who had just died...

- 1) She seem alive – (just like a fresh cut flower)
- 2) Fathers' hand is under her head...
- 3) Mother has just kissed her rosé cheek...
- 4) There is still a gleam in her eyes...

- a) Youth is here today and gone tomorrow...
- b) The results of Satan's hand upon them is just being seen...
- c) They still look alive, yet they are dead in trespasses and sins...

b. The widow's son

- 1) This young man had been dead for a while...
- 2) Cheeks are not as rosey and signs of decay are beginning to appear.
- 3) They are carrying his body to be buried.
- 4) Although he looks more dead than Jarius' daughter, he is no more dead than she....
- 5) Death knows no degrees....
- 6) This young man is like some....

- a) Signs of sin are beginning to show...
- b) Satan is closing in....
- c) Evil habits are becoming engraved...

c. Lazarus

- 1) We see even greater manifestations of death...
- 2) Martha said, "Lord, by now he stinketh..."
- 3) Dead four days:

- a) Yet, the young damsel, just as dead....
- b) Yet young man, just as dead...

- 4) *Someone said that Christ raised the:dead / deader / deadest*
4. *But they were all dead:*
 - a. *“For all have sinned and come short...”*
 - b. *“...even so shall all be made alive...”*
5. *Jesus said, “Because I live, ye shall live also.”*
6. *The Voice of Truth – “He is risen...”*

Conclusion:

- A. *I see modern skeptics march back and forth before a sealed tomb today:*
 1. *“God is dead...,”they say.*
 2. *“Jesus must not rise,” they say.*
 3. *But these modern soldiers are to be pitted more than the Roman soldiers of old...*
 - a. *They left their post to declare the news of the resurrection and that Jesus was not there...*
 - b. *Blindly many “...professing themselves to be wise...” have become fools.*
- B. *Prejudice, Reason, and Deceit could not keep Jesus in the tomb and neither can it put Him back!!!!*
 1. *“He is risen...”*
 2. *Do you believe?*
 3. *Romans 10:9*

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

- C. *Notice the last words of the angel. (28:7) “GO”*
- D. *Jesus said: (28:19-20) “GO”*