

Theme: Jesus has been raised from the dead, and His people are to worship Him and, despite opposition, tell this good news to the world.

## I. Intro – A Surprising Discovery

- A. 1989 - Phila. financial analyst Donal Scheer at flea market
- B. See a painting with a frame he likes; buys for \$4
- C. Takes it home; tries to remove frame; it breaks!
- D. Notices something behind the painting
- E. Copy of the Declaration of Independence!
- F. Original copy printed in 1776
- G. Sold for \$2,420,000 at auction - a great discovery!
- H. Today - an even greater surprising discovery!

## II. Discovery - He is Risen! (vv1-7)

- A. The drama - a very sad task (v1)
  - 1. Think of the heavy hearts - 3rd day of this!
  - 2. They are going to anoint the dead body [Lk 24:1]
- B. Divine intervention (vv2-4)
  - 1. A violent earthquake, an angel (v2)
  - 2. The angel moves the massive stone (v2)
  - 3. An awesome appearance - your move! (v3)
  - 4. Frightened soldiers - only a fool wouldn't be! (v4)
- C. Discovery - He is risen!
  - 1. I know why you are here (v5)

- 2. They were not expecting this!
- 3. The central fact - not here - He is risen! (v6)
- 4. Not just spiritually alive - literally, physically risen!
- 5. This is the mandatory foundation of all Christianity

## III. Response - Worship and Tell Others

- A. They go to tell others the good news (vv7-8)
  - 1. Commanded to go and tell (v7)
  - 2. They obeyed (v8)
- B. They worship Jesus the Risen One (vv9-10)
  - 1. They meet Jesus and worship Him (v9)
  - 2. Jesus tells them to go and tell others (v10)
- C. Natural response - worship Jesus and talk about Him!

## IV. Spin - Those Who Reject the Truth

- A. The enemies of Christ spin the situation
  - 1. The soldiers tell them about the angel
  - 2. They do not even consider this - they spin
  - 3. The lie of sleeping on duty - punishable by death
  - 4. Vested interests to keep - reject truth and spin
  - 5. This is the result of a dark heart - we hate truth
- B. The same is true today - many will not consider truth
  - 1. It has always been so - today is no different

2. People will believe anything to protect their interests
3. People will believe anything other than truth!

## V. Mission - To All the World

### A. They worship Jesus - fuel for mission

1. Like the women, they worship Christ
2. Worship is the fuel for mission
3. Only worshippers can serve in mission

### B. But some doubted?

1. Seems unusual, but even believers can doubt
2. This is not stark unbelief; hesitation; wavering
3. Only other time - Matthew 14:31 - Peter sinking
4. Mission built on God's faithfulness - not ours!

### C. The mission given - basis,

1. The basis - Jesus' authority (v18)
2. The scope - all nations; obey everything (vv19-20)
3. The promise - His unending Presence (v20)

## VI. Application

### A. How do you respond to the news of Jesus' resurrection?

1. The Good News - Jesus has conquered death!
2. This is a historical fact - not mere words!
3. Do you believe this? Or do you spin it away?

4. Don't spin it - receive the truth today!

### B. Are we fulfilling the mission God has given to us?

1. Do we truly worship Jesus?
2. Do we tell others - in spite of doubts and fears?
3. This week - proclaim the Good News - He is Risen!

### Risen!

Matthew 28:1-20

April 8, 2012

Song

Hebrews 13:20-21

1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” 11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ 14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” 15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. 16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:1–20