

Matt. 27:62-66; 28:11-15: The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests & the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ & said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’” ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go & steal him away & tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ & the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went & made the tomb secure by sealing the stone & setting a guard . . . ^{28:11} While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city & told the chief priests all that had taken place. ¹² & when they had assembled with the elders & taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³ & said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night & stole him away while we were asleep.’” ¹⁴ & if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him & keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ So they took the money & did as they were directed. & this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Intro: Last Sunday, we focused on the burial of the Lord Jesus Christ: Jesus was buried to rise again so that you will rise as He did!

Today, we see the enemies of Jesus remember His words; they try to do everything they can to stop Him; they bribe & lie about Him; But they can't stop Him! What Jesus says happens, & nobody can stop Him!

1. The Enemies Of Jesus Remember Jesus' Words

Matt. 27:62-63: The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests & the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ & said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’”

a. The day after the day of Preparation: This is the next day after Jesus died on the cross. This is Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath day.

b. Jesus enemies were the chief priests & the Pharisees: These are the religious leaders of Israel. They should have known better! But they are enemies of Christ & of God! They call Jesus “that impostor”! An impostor is one who deceives & pretends to be someone he is not. They accuse Jesus of lying about His identity. But He is God!

c. Jesus' enemies remember His words: Jesus told everyone what He was going to do!

- **Matt. 12:39-40:** But he answered them, “An evil & adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days & three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days & three nights in the heart of the earth.”

- **Matt. 16:21:** From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem & suffer many things from the elders & chief priests & scribes, & be killed, & on the third day be raised.

- **Matt. 17:22-23:** As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³ & they will kill him, & he will be raised on the third day.” & they were greatly distressed.

- **Matt. 20:18-19:** See, we are going up to Jerusalem. & the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests & scribes, & they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ & deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked & flogged & crucified, & he will be raised on the third day.

d. Natural enemies team up against Jesus: Jesus enemies go to their enemy to join forces against Him. The most powerful religious leaders & the most powerful government on earth team up against Jesus to try to stop Him!

- **Luke 13:1:** There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

e. You cannot remain neutral with Jesus: You are either an enemy of Jesus or you are His friend & follower – there is no in between or gray area with Jesus.

- **Matt. 12:30:** Whoever is not with me is against me, & whoever does not gather with me scatters. **GOSPEL!**

What Jesus says happens, & nobody can stop Him!

2. The Enemies Of Jesus Try To Stop Jesus

Matt. 27:64-66: Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go & steal him away & tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ & the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went & made the tomb secure by sealing the stone & setting a guard.

a. Jesus’ enemies are worried that His disciples will be deceptive: They think Jesus’ disciples are going to steal Jesus’ body in order to make everyone think Jesus rose from the dead! And they say this will make everything worse! This will be a greater lie – a greater deception! They say: “We can’t let this happen!”

b. Jesus’ enemies make the tomb of Jesus as secure as they are able: They think they are going to stop the lies & stop the fraud. They think they are going to prevent any deception that Jesus would rise from the dead by His disciples stealing His body.

They have a guard of soldiers; they make it as secure as they can; they seal the stone & set the guard. They do everything they can do make sure that Jesus’ body does not & will not come out of that tomb!

But we know Jesus rose from the dead! Lord willing, we will see this in the text next week.

What Jesus says happens, & nobody can stop Him!

3. The Enemies Of Jesus Bribe & Lie About Jesus

Matt. 28:11-15: While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city & told the chief priests all that had taken place. ¹² & when they had assembled with the elders & taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³ & said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night & stole him away while we were asleep.’” ¹⁴ & if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him & keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ So they took the money & did as they were directed. & this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

a. The guards told the chief priests what happened: Matt. 28:2-4: & behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven & came & rolled back the stone & sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, & his clothing white as snow. & for fear of him the guards trembled & became like dead men.

b. The chief priests bribed the guards to lie: Vs. 12-14: when they had assembled with the elders & taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers & said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night & stole him away while we were asleep.’” & if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him & keep you out of trouble.”

c. This lie spread: V. 15: So they took the money & did as they were directed. & this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Daniel Doriani: There is delicious irony here. The authorities try to cover up the resurrection by advancing the very story that they had wanted to prevent! They posted a guard so no one would steal the body & say he had risen. Now they tell the guard to say they fell asleep & that the disciples stole the body. In this way, they actually spread the story of the empty tomb. [It’s a terrible lie: how can guards who are asleep know what happened!]

d. Men are dead to truth – God must make men alive: The religious leaders wanted a sign, Jesus told them no sign but the resurrection! But they won’t believe! Think about all they had seen! Jesus! His miracles! His love! His preaching! The best apologist! His death! His rising!

- **Lk. 16:29-31:** But Abraham said, “They have Moses & the Prophets; let them hear them.” & he said, “No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.”

e. Many lies are told about Jesus Christ: The world, the flesh, & the devil are all your enemies. They all seek to lie to you about God & His truth & the truth about His Son: “Did God actually say?” “If You are the Son of God”

The swoon theory; Muslims: Jesus was replaced with someone else; the disciples stole Him away; He was burned

There is no vital, essential truth in Biblical, orthodox Christianity that has not been controversial! Doctrine of Scripture; Doctrine of the Trinity; Doctrine of the Cross; Doctrine of Salvation; Doctrine of Holiness, etc.

f. We must fight to believe the truth: 1) Know what you believe & why; 2) Study God’s Word; 3) Pray; 4) Take advantage of the local church; 5) Read good books; 6) Fight!

- **Eph. 6:11-18:** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh & blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, & having done all, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, & having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ &, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ & take the helmet of salvation, & the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer & supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints . . .

- **1 Tim. 6:11-12:** But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- **2 Tim. 4:7-8:** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, & not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

- **Matt. 24:24-25:** For false christs & false prophets will arise & perform great signs & wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

- **Mk. 9:24:** I believe; help my unbelief!

What Jesus says happens, & nobody can stop Him!

4. The Enemies Of Jesus Can’t Stop Jesus

Jn. 10:17-18: For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, & I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. [Movie Hero Story; Sports: Underdog & Always winner]

Acts 5:34-39: [When the Apostles were arrested] But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up & gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, & a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed & came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census & drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, & all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!"

What Jesus says happens, & nobody can stop Him!

Christ Jesus’ Words And Will Be Done
He Speaks The Truth, He’s God The Son
Though Foes Attack And Think They Won

They Bribe And Lie And Stop At None
To Try And Stop The Rising Sun
But Christ Has Died And Rose To Stun
All Enemies Who Hate And Shun
He Won't Be Stopped, He's God The Son
New Life In Him Has Now Begun
He's Christ Is All, His Will Be Done!

Jesus – Our Unstoppable King! The family tree of my King includes whores & hookers; murderers & adulterers; liars & deceivers, but my King can save them all, change them all, & make all their sins as white as snow!

My King was conceived by the Holy Spirit!
He was born of a virgin!
He came to save His people from their sins!
His name is Immanuel – God with us!
When He was born, a star appeared to lead the Gentile Magi to worship Him!
He came to shepherd His people Israel!
He's the greater Israel, called out of Egypt to deliver His people from everlasting slavery! That's my King!
He's the one mightier whose sandal strap no one is worthy to untie!
He baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire!
He alone fulfilled all righteousness!
He is God's beloved Son with Whom the Father is well pleased!
He's the greater Adam Who did what the first Adam should've done – He kicked Satan out of the garden of this world!
He's the great light that dawned to bring His people out of darkness!
He makes those who follow Him fishers of men!
He healed epileptics and paralytics!
He cured those afflicted with various diseases and pains!
He cast out demons! And He's worthy for us to leave everything precious to us and follow Him where ever He takes us! That's my King! Do you know Him?!

He's the meekest of the meek!
He hungers and thirsts for righteousness like no other!
He's the most merciful of the merciful!
He's the purest of the purest in heart!
He's the peacemaker of peacemakers!
Though He's the only one Who ever lived Who deserved no persecution, He was the most persecuted so that His people might be saved! That's my King!

He's the salt of the earth!
He's the light of the world!
He's the fulfillment of all the law and the prophets!
He's the new and perfect law giver!
He's the treasure of heaven that the human heart longs for!
He's the greatest gift from heaven we could ever dream of receiving! That's my King!

He astonished crowds!
He had authority like no other!
He cleansed lepers!
He cooled fevers!
He drove out demons!

He took our illnesses and bore our diseases! That's my King! I wonder if you know Him today?!

He had no place to live – nowhere to even lay His head!

He commanded the raging winds and seas to calm down and they ceased and became silent!

He's astonishing, frightening, and joy-inspiring all at the same time!

He forgives and eats with sinners!

He's the all satisfying Bridegroom Who will marry you at the end of time and fulfill all your desires perfectly!

He raised the dead!

He made the blind see!

He made the mute speak! That's my King!

He's compassionate to the sheep without a shepherd!

He sends His people out to minister and love others in His name!

He's worthy of more love than you give your own father and mother!

He's worthy of more love than you give your own son or daughter!

He's worthy for us all to lose our lives for His sake!

He's the Teacher of teachers and the Preacher of preachers!

He's the Doer of many mighty works!

He's the only One able to give us rest for our souls! That's my King! Are you finding rest for your souls in Him alone today?!

He's the Lord of the Sabbath!

He restores withered hands!

He's the chosen Servant!

He pleases the soul of the eternal, infinite God!

He proclaimed justice to the Gentiles!

He won't break a bruised reed, and He won't quench a smoldering wick!

He'll bring justice and victory for the glory of the King of Kings! That's my King!

He's the something greater than Jonah!

He's the something greater than Solomon!

He's the brother and son of all those who do the will of His Father in heaven!

He displays in Himself what myriads of prophets and righteous people longed to see!

He opened His mouth in parables and uttered what has been hidden since the foundation of the world!

He's like treasure in a field Who is worthy for us, in our joy, to sell all that we have so that we can buy that field!

He's the pearl of great price worthy of all our delight and admiration!

He astonished His people with all His wisdom and mighty works! That's my King!

He had compassion on the people and fed five thousand with a little food and four thousand too!

He walked on water!

His disciples who knew Him best – His disciples who were Jews and were only supposed to worship the one and only true God – worshiped Him! He is God!

People begged to merely touch the fringe of His garment so that they might be healed!

Because of Him, the mute spoke, the crippled were healthy, the lame walked, the blind could see, and people glorified the God of Israel! That's my King! Do you know Him?!

He is the Christ, the Son of the living God!

He had to go to Jerusalem and suffering many things, and be killed, and on the third day be raised!

He always set His mind on the things of God and not on the things of man!

He's worthy for us to pick up our cross and follow Him!

He's worth more than the whole world!

He's coming back with His angels in the glory of His Father to repay each person according to what they have done! Are you ready for the return of the King today?!

He was transfigured on the mountain, His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as light!
He is the One we are to listen to above all others!
He dwells among His people as they gather in His name!
He is more precious than all the riches that this world could offer us!
Everyone who leaves everything to follow Him will receive a hundredfold back and eternal life!
He's the King Who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey!
God ordained nursing babes to praise Him!
He's the rejected stone of the builders that has become the chief cornerstone!
He's the only one Who ever loved the Lord His God with all His heart, soul, and mind and loved His neighbor as Himself perfectly for the glory of God! That's my King!

He's the Lord of Lords Who will have all enemies put under His feet!
He's the one instructor!
He's so worthy and His love is so satisfying that to be hated by all nations for His name's sake is a glorious honor!
He will return on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory and His angels will gather His people from all the nations of the earth!
He's returning at an hour you do not expect!
He will return in His glory, with all His angels with Him, and sit on His glorious throne, separating the sheep from the goats! Are you ready for the return of the King today?!

He was betrayed, denied, and abandoned by His closest friends!
He was spit upon!
He was beaten!
He was stripped naked!
He was mocked!
He wore a crown of thorns!
He was nailed to a cross!
He was forsaken by God!
He endured the full measure of the wrath of God in place of hell deserving sinners! That's my King!

He yielded up His spirit with a loud voice when he died!
The curtain of the temple was ripped in two!
The earth shook!
The dead were raised!
He was buried in the tomb!
But death couldn't hold Him!
He didn't stay dead!
Now He's alive forevermore to the praise and glory of God!
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him!
He is with His people always, even to the end of the age!
So now we go into all the world - to all nations - and make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all that Jesus has commanded! That's my King! That's our King! Do you know Him?!