**“The King’s Victory: Sin’s Curse Defeated”**

(Easter in October!)

**Matt. 28:1-15 (NIV); 1 Cor. 15:50-58 (Living Bible)**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 10/12/25)**

 An earthquake. An empty grave. Stupefied guards. Twice a proclamation: Do not be afraid! Why?

**SIN’S CURSE IS DEFEATED!**

 God’s will and purpose are unstoppable. Sin and death are defeated for God’s people and for God’s world. The great reclamation of creation is underway, and its completion is assured. How certain is this? As certain as an empty tomb. Christ has conquered death and the grave. We should live every day in this REALITY. The resurrection anchors Christian assurance, purpose, and hope.

 The guards knew they would be killed if they failed to guard the tomb. But they were no match for God: the ground shook and the guards were neutralized. The angel removed the stone so that the eyewitnesses could confirm that Jesus was gone. He was resurrected! Christian faith is not grounded in ideas or fantasy, but in irrefutable, historic, and objective reality: Christ is risen! Don’t let our culture convince you that Christianity is just one of many belief systems designed to “help you find your truth.” Don’t think that! The tomb is empty! Christ is risen! The resurrection of Jesus is a covenantal reality. People break promises all the time, but God doesn’t.

 The women came to finish anointing Jesus’ body on the day after the Sabbath, the first day of the week. This a day of re-creation. God is remaking the world, reclaiming His people through this resurrection. God is keeping His promises made at the beginning (Gen. 3:15; 12:3). Man CANNOT restore himself to God. Only God can effect this restoration, by defeating sin’s curse once and for all through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Christ’s kingdom is global: it is for ALL who enter the narrow gate through repentance, faith in Christ, and surrendering to Him in obedience. It’s not just some idea. It has been validated by Jesus’ resurrection (1 Cor. 15:17-22).

 The soldiers’ fear is based on sheer terror in the face of holiness. They are part of the ALL men EVERYWHERE who need to repent (Acts 17:30-31). The women’s fear is because of two earthquakes in two days, scary guards, and a holy angel. But their fear is a fear accompanied by great joy. Jesus’ resurrection is most certainly good news of great joy! These women lived in allegiance to Jesus because they LOVED Him. This love and joy shouts louder than their fear. Sure, we may be afraid of the process of death, but we have a sure hope in our resurrection because Jesus defeated death. The resurrection of Jesus eliminates forever any terror of God’s wrath being experienced by His people. His approval is assured! Jesus took ALL of our punishment upon Himself. Our only fear is a reverential fear.

 “The fool says in his heart that there is no God” (Ps. 14:1). The lie concocted by the Jewish leaders cannot succeed. But beware: knowing the facts of the resurrection does not save sinners. Facts, apart from allegiance and faith, only condemn. Faith requires knowledge as a starting point. In addition, there must be agreement and surrender to Christ as King. **FAMILIARITY IS NOT FAITH**. The soldiers knew the facts, but they still lacked faith. They were bought off. Unbelief is not just the lack of evidence; it is the suppression of the truth (Rom. 1:18-20). Grace opens our eyes to the truth. Jesus came for wretches like you and me. How do I know? HE IS RISEN! How do I know He died for all my sins? HE IS RISEN!

 Faith is always accompanied by joy, glad obedience, and worship. The women believed the angels and did as they were told. They physically grabbed hold of Christ. That’s what we’re to do! Death is swallowed up in victory (1 Cor. 15:54-55; Is. 25:8-9). Yahweh, the Promise-keeping God, the God of the covenant, kept His word and saved us through His Son. We can now look ahead to our resurrection. This, church, is our wonderful future.

**QUESTIONS**:

1. What aspects of sin’s curse (see Gen. 3) do you see being reversed in Matt. 28?
2. How does fear of death reveal our tendency to live under the effects of sin’s curse?
3. How might remembering Christ’s resurrection change the way we grieve, face suffering, or look at the daily grind of life?
4. Read 1 Cor. 15:50-58. What is the “work of the Lord” we are supposed to do?

**“Crown Him with Many Crowns” (Bridges)**

1. Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul and sing
Of Him Who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.
2. Crown Him the Lord of life!
Who triumphed o’er the grave,
Who rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.
3. Crown Him the Lord of heav’n!
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv’n
From yonder glorious throne,
To Thee be endless praise,
For Thou for us hast died; Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified.