



**"AS IF IT NEVER HAPPENED"**

**"MATTHEW 28:11-15"**

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**INTRODUCTION**

**I WAS WATCHING TELEVISION THE OTHER EVENING AND SAW AN ADVERTISEMENT THAT DREW MY ATTENTION.**

**IT WAS FOR A COMPANY THAT DOES COMMERCIAL CLEAN-UP.**

**THEY SPECIALIZE IN ASSISTING COMPANIES THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY FLOODS, FIRE OR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN CLEANING, MOPPING UP, DISINFECTING, AND RESTORING BACK IN ORDER THAT WHICH ONCE WAS.**

**THEIR MOTTO, “AS IF IT NEVER HAPPENED,” CLOSED THE COMMERCIAL AS THEY SHOWED BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES OF A STORE THAT HAD FLOODED OUT.**

**EVERYTHING WAS BACK ON THE SHELF. THE FLOORS THAT WERE FLOODED WERE NOW DRY. THE SHELVES WERE PUT BACK IN ORDER. IT WAS “ALL AS IF IT NEVER HAPPENED.”**

**THERE ARE EVENTS IN OUR LIVES THAT WE WISH WE COULD PICK UP A TELEPHONE AND CALL A COMPANY AND HAVE THEM COME IN AND SAY “CAN YOU CHANGE WHAT I JUST WENT THROUGH “AS IF IT NEVER HAPPENED?”**

**HOWEVER, THE REALITY IS THAT NO MATTER HOW WE BEG, CRY, AND BLEED - HISTORY WILL WRITE THEM DOWN VERBATIM – NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL.**

- 1. EVERY PAIN.**
- 2. EVERY TRIAL.**
- 3. EVERY TEST.**

4. EVERY BLESSING.
5. EVERY ROUGH MOMENT.
6. EVERY JOYFUL SCENE.
7. EVERY WOUNDING OF THE HEART.
8. EVERY VICTORY.

**HOWEVER, THERE IS A MOMENT OF HUMAN HISTORY THAT HAS BEEN SHROUDED IN DEBATE AND TO THIS DAY THERE ARE THOSE WHO SUGGEST THAT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.**

**WE CELEBRATE THIS DAY TODAY, BUT IT'S STILL ONE OF THE MOST DIVISIVE, CONTROVERSIAL, AND PROBLEMATIC EVENTS.**

**FOR IT WAS ON THIS DAY THAT JESUS THE CHRIST, WHO WAS LAST SEEN DEAD ON A ROMAN CROSS, BURIED IN THE BORROWED TOMB OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, ENTOMBED THERE BY THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT WITH SENTRY GUARDS PLACED THERE ON A TWENTY-FOUR SEVEN BASIS,**

**HAS DEFIED THE SKEPTICS, FULFILLED HIS PROMISES, COMPLETED PROPHETICAL TEACHINGS, AND CHANGED FOREVER THE SCHEMATICS OF DEATH – AND HE HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.**

**I SAID, HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.**

1. HE WAS NOT UNDER A COMA – HE WAS DEAD.
2. HE WAS NOT IN A DEEP SLEEP – HE WAS DEAD.
3. HE WAS NOT ON A VACATION LEAVE – HE WAS DEAD.
4. HE WAS NOT GONE AWAY ON A PERSONAL TRIP – HE WAS DEAD

5. HE DIED AFTER BEING HUNG ON A CROSS. HE WAS DEAD.
6. HE WAS, IN THE WORDS OF MY GRANDFATHER, "GRAVEYARD DEAD."
7. HIS HEART HAD CEASED TO FUNCTION.
8. HIS BRAIN WAS NO LONGER SENDING OUT ELECTRONIC SIGNALS TO THE PULMONARY, LYMPHATIC AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM. HE WAS DEAD.

**HOWEVER, BETWEEN SATURDAY EVENING AND THE DAWN OF THE S-U-N, THE S-O-N GOT UP WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND:**

1. HE MOVED FROM DEATH TO LIFE.
2. HE REMOVED THE STING FROM DEATH.
3. HE EXPERIENCED VICTORY OVER THE GRAVE.
4. HE SUSPENDED THE RULES OVER THE FINALITY OF DEATH.
5. HE PROVIDED PROOF THAT WHEN THIS LIFE IS OVER THERE IS LIFE EVERLASTING.
6. HE DEFEATED THE ARGUMENT THAT LIFE STOPS AT DEATH.
7. HE CONFIRMED THAT HE IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.
8. HE EMBODIED THAT HE IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.
9. HE CHANGED THE CALENDAR FROM B.C. TO A.D.

**AND LET ME HURRY UP AND SAY THAT HE'S STILL NOT DEAD! HE'S ALIVE!**

**HOWEVER, THE FACT OF HIS DEATH HAS BECOME SWALLOWED UP IN THIS TEXT.**

**THERE IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THREE FACTIONS:**

- 1. THE JEWISH CHIEF PRIESTS, JESUS' LONG TIME ENEMIES, WHO HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED WITH THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION.**
- 2. BY ROMAN SOLDIERS, WHO WERE WITNESSES – ASSIGNED TO GUARD THE TOMB –**
- 3. AND WITH THE SANHEDRIN COUNCIL, CALLED THE ELDERS IN THIS TEXT, THE HIGHEST TRIBUNAL OF THE JEWS BASED IN JERUSALEM .**

**THEIR DISCUSSION IS NOT ON HOW GREAT AND GLORIOUS A MORNING THIS IS.**

- 1. THEIR DISCUSSION IS NOT TEMPERED WITH THE WORDS “WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS THIS.”**
- 2. THEIR DISCUSSION IS NOT ON HOW THEY SHOULD PLAN A GREAT CELEBRATION TO HONOR THE SON OF GOD.**
- 3. NO, THEIR DISCUSSION IS ON HOW CAN WE CAPTURE CONTROL OF THIS EVENT, CLEAN IT UP, PUT THE FACTS OF FRIDAY AND SATURDAY BACK ON THE PROVERBIAL SHELF, SANITIZE IT, WIPE IT UP, AND RESTORE ORDER “AS IF IT NEVER HAPPENED.”**

**IN ORDER TO DO THAT, THEIR FIRST MOVE WAS TO GIVE MONEY TO THE SOLDIERS.**

**HOWEVER, WHEN YOU READ THIS PASSAGE IN GREEK, YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT THE MONEY WAS NOT A TIP.**

**IT WAS ENOUGH MONEY TO SATISFY THE SOLDIERS THAT THEY WILL NOW CHANGE THEIR TESTIMONY FROM WHAT THEY SAW TO WHAT THEY ARE TOLD TO SAY WHAT THEY SAW.**

**MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT MONEY CAN BUY. HOWEVER, WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO WHAT JESUS HAS DONE IN MY LIFE, WHAT JESUS IS DOING IN MY LIFE, WHAT I'VE SEEN JESUS DO, AND WHAT JESUS IS ABOUT TO DO IN MY LIFE – MY TESTIMONY IS NOT UP FOR SALE.**

- 1. I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH MONEY BILL GATES HAS – HE CAN'T BUY MY TESTIMONY.**
- 2. I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH MONEY SAM WALTON HAS – HE CAN'T BUY MY TESTIMONY.**
- 3. I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH MONEY ALAN GREENSPAN CONTROLS – HE CAN'T BUY MY TESTIMONY.**
- 4. I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH BLING BLING SNOOP DOGG HAS AVAILABLE – HE CAN'T BUY MY TESTIMONY.**
- 5. I DON'T CARE HOW MANY WARDROBE MALFUNCTIONS JANET JACKSON WILL HAVE AND HOW MANY GYRATIONS BEYONCE CAN MAKE – THEY CAN'T BUY MY TESTIMONY.**

**I KNOW WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR ME.**

**MATTER OF FACT, MY TESTIMONY OF WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE, WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO REMOVE FROM MY MOUTH THE WORDS THAT I KNOW TO BE TRUE:**

- 1. AND I'M NOT TELLING YOU WHAT I HEARD.**
- 2. I'VE BEEN TO THAT STAGE.**

3. I'VE MOVED FROM WHAT I HEARD, TO WHAT I BELIEVE.

**BUT I'M NOT TELLING YOU WHAT I BELIEVE. I'VE MOVED FROM WHAT I BELIEVE TO WHAT I KNOW:**

1. I KNOW THAT HE IS A BURDEN BEARER AND A HEAVY LOAD SHARER.
2. I KNOW THAT HE WILL FEED YOU WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY.
3. I KNOW THAT HE IS MY DOCTOR IN MY SICKNESSES.
4. I KNOW THAT HE IS MY LAWYER IN A COURTROOM.
5. I KNOW THAT HE WILL FIGHT YOUR BATTLES.
6. I KNOW THAT HE IS A COMPANY KEEPER.
7. I KNOW THAT HE WILL PROVIDE SHELTER OVER YOUR HEAD.
8. I KNOW THAT HE WON'T LEAVE YOU BY YOURSELF.
9. I KNOW THAT HE WILL DELIVER YOU OUT OF YOUR TROUBLE.
10. I KNOW THAT HE WILL GIVE YOU PEACE IN A STORM.
11. I KNOW THAT HE WILL GIVE YOU JOY IN YOUR TROUBLES.
12. I KNOW THAT HE WILL PROTECT YOU FROM YOUR ENEMIES.

13. I KNOW THAT HE WILL SPEAK UP WHEN YOU SHUT UP.
14. I KNOW THAT HE WILL GIVE YOU PEACE WHEN YOU KEEP YOUR MIND ON HIM.
15. I KNOW THAT HE WILL CHANGE WEAPONS FORMED AGAINST YOU AND RENDER THEM HARMLES.
16. I KNOW THAT HE CAN CHANGE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES IN YOUR FAVOR.
17. I KNOW THAT HE LOVES ME WHEN NO ONE ELSE DOES.
18. I KNOW THAT I KNOW THAT I KNOW THAT I KNOW THAT I KNOW THAT I KNOW THAT I KNOW THAT I KNOW THAT CAN'T NOBODY DO YOU LIKE JESUS.

**THE SOLDIERS' TESTIMONY WAS FOR SALE.**

**NOT ONLY WAS THEIR TESTIMONY FOR SALE, THEY WERE WILLING TO RECITE SOMETHING THAT WASN'T TRUE.**

**LOOK AT THE RECORD, THEY MOVE FROM FACTUAL INFORMATION TO A SCRIPT WRITTEN BY THE ENEMIES OF JESUS.**

**THEY ARE TOLD TO SAY, THAT DURING THE NIGHT, THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CAME BY NIGHT AND STOLE HIS BODY WHILE WE SLEPT.**

**THE PROBLEM HERE IS THAT IN ORDER TO READ THIS SCRIPT THEY WOULD HAVE TO IMPLICATE THEMSELVES. CHECK IT OUT:**

1. **THESE ARE ROMAN SOLDIERS WHO ARE CHARGED TO DO WHATEVER THEIR COMMANDERS GIVE DIRECTION. AND THEIR VERY LIVES DEPENDED UPON IT.**

2. **HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO SAY THAT JESUS' BODY WAS STOLEN, THEY WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT WE TRAINED SOLDIERS, WHO WORKED IN SHIFTS, TRAINED PROFESSIONALS, WHOSE ONLY JOB IT WAS TO GUARD THE TOMBS, WOULD HAVE TO SAY THEY FELL ASLEEP.**
3. **NOT JUST ONE OF THEM, BUT THE ENTIRE PLATOON OF SOLDIERS ASSIGNED TO GUARD THE TOMB, WOULD HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THEY NOT ONLY FELL ASLEEP,**
4. **THEY DIDN'T HEAR THE SOUNDS OF MEN PUSHING THE STONE AWAY,**
5. **THEY DIDN'T SEE THE TORCH LIGHT OF THOSE SAME MEN,**
6. **THEY DIDN'T HEAR THE EXCITEMENT OF THE VOICES,**
7. **AND THEY DIDN'T HEAR THE MOANING,**
8. **NOT JUST ONE SOLDIER TOOK A NAP, A WHOLE GROUP OF SOLDIERS, WHO PROBABLY RESTED ALL DAY LONG IN ANTICIPATION OF WORKING THAT EVENING, WENT TO SLEEP.**

**YOU SEE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHEN THE DEVIL WRITES YOUR SCRIPT, HE'LL MAKE YOU SAY STUFF THAT IS SO UNBELIEVABLE THAT YOU'LL TRY TO SELL IT AS FACTUAL.**

1. **YOUR LIES WON'T MAKE SENSE.**
2. **YOUR ACCUSATIONS WON'T MAKE SENSE.**
3. **YOUR STORIES WON'T MAKE SENSE.**
4. **YOUR EXPLANATIONS WON'T MAKE SENSE.**

5. YOUR TALES WON'T MAKE SENSE.

6. YOUR COVER WON'T MAKE SENSE.

**NOT ONLY DID THE STORY MAKE NO SENSE, LOOK AT THE WHAT THEY SAID:**

1. IF IT GETS TO THE GOVERNOR'S EARS, WE WILL PERSUADE HIM AND SECURE YOU.

2. IN OTHER WORDS, GO AHEAD AND TELL YOUR LIES – WE GOT YOUR BACK.

**I NEED TO TELL SOMEBODY IN THIS HOUSE TODAY, BEWARE OF PEOPLE WHO ENCOURAGE YOU TO:**

1. DO WRONG AND THEN SAY "I GOT YOUR BACK."

2. TELL A LIE – I GOT YOUR BACK.

3. STEAL MONEY – I GOT YOUR BACK.

4. DESTROY A REPUTATION – I GOT YOUR BACK.

5. TELL SOMEBODY OFF – I GOT YOUR BACK.

6. ACT A FOOL – I GOT YOUR BACK.

7. STOP SINGING GOD'S PRAISES – I GOT YOUR BACK.

8. DON'T GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL – I GOT YOUR BACK.

9. STOP READING YOUR BIBLE – I GOT YOUR BACK.

10. DISRESPECT THE WORSHIP SETTING – I GOT YOUR BACK.

**THEIR TESTIMONY WAS FOR SALE. THEIR SCRIPT WAS UNBELIEVABLE. AND THEN SPIRITUAL DAMAGE WAS DONE.**

**YOU SEE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IF THE UNTRUTH OF THE RESURRECTION REACHES THE EARS OF THE LOST, IT CAN NOT ONLY DO DAMAGE TODAY, IT'LL DO DAMAGE TOMORROW.**

**THE TEXT SAYS THAT NOT ONLY DID THEY ATTEMPT TO ACT "AS IF THE RESURRECTION NEVER HAPPENED", PEOPLE WERE DAMAGED BECAUSE OF THEIR TESTIMONY.**

**LOOK AT THE TEXT, IT SUGGESTS THE PERPETUITY OF THE DAMAGE:**

- 1. THE SOLDIERS TOOK THEIR MONEY,**
- 2. THEY HAD THEIR BACKS COVERED BY THE PRIESTS AND THE SANHEDRAN,**
- 3. AND NOW THE WITNESSES HAD A SCRIPT THAT SAID, IF YOU'RE ASKED ABOUT DID JESUS RISE, JUST SAY YOU WERE ASLEEP, JOHN, PETER AND 'EM TOOK HIS BODY OUT DURING THE NIGHT.**

**THAT'S DAMAGE.**

- 1. WHEN A WITNESS FAILS TO BE AN ACCURATE WITNESS, THAT'S DAMAGE.**
- 2. WHENEVER YOU AND I, WHO ARE THE LORD'S WITNESSES – WE HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE RESURRECTION – ALTER THE MESSAGE IN ANY WAY – SOMEBODY IS GOING TO BE HURT BY THE WORDS OF OUR TESTIMONY.**

**WHEN WE ENCOUNTER MEN, WOMEN, BOYS, AND GIRLS AND THEY CONFRONT US ABOUT OUR FAITH, OUR SAVIOUR, AND OUR BELIEFS, WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO SAY, THAT JESUS IS OUR LORD!**

**AND NO DRIFT INTO STUFF THAT TAKES AWAY FROM THE MESSAGE:**

1. WE'RE NOT HERE TO BRAG ABOUT HOW GOOD OUR CHOIRS ARE.
2. WE'RE NOT HERE TO BRAG ABOUT HOW WONDERFUL OUR PREACHER IS.
3. WE'RE NOT HERE TO BRAG ABOUT HOW PROFESSIONAL OUR USHERS ARE.
4. WE'RE NOT HERE TO BRAG ABOUT HOW DRESSED OUR DEACONS ARE.
5. WE'RE NOT HERE TO BRAG ABOUT HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN A CHURCH.
6. WE'RE NOT HERE TO BRAG ABOUT THE SERVICES THAT WE OFFER.
7. BUT WE ARE CHARGED TO TELL THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

**THIS TEXT SAYS THAT UNTIL THIS DAY THE JEWS REPEATED WHAT THEY WERE TAUGHT – THAT HIS BODY WAS STOLEN.**

**CONCLUSION**

**I DON'T WANT IT TO BE SAID THAT MY TESTIMONY CAUSED SOMEBODY ELSE NOT TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS.**

1. THE TRUTH IS HE WAS BORN IN A MANGER...
2. THE TRUTH IS HE WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN.
3. THE TRUTH IS HE STARTED PREACHING AT AGE 30.
4. THE TRUTH IS HE LIVED FOR 33 ½ YEARS.

5. **THE TRUTH IS HE WAS TRIED AND MOVED FROM JUDGMENT HALL TO JUDGMENT HALL.**
6. **THE TRUTH IS THAT THEY BEAT HIM WITH A CAT OF NINE TAILS.**
7. **THE TRUTH IS THAT THEY PLACED HIM ON A CROSS.**
8. **THE TRUTH IS HE HUNG BETWEEN THE SIXTH AND THE NINTH HOUR.**
9. **THE TRUTH IS THAT HE DIED BETWEEN TWO THIEVES.**
10. **THE TRUTH IS THAT HE WAS BURIED IN A BORROWED TOMB.**
11. **THE TRUTH IS THAT HE WAS DEAD ON FRIDAY NIGHT.**
12. **THE TRUTH IS THAT HE WAS DEAD ON SATURDAY.**
13. **THE TRUTH IS THAT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HANDS.**
14. **THE TRUTH IS THAT THERE'S NOBODY LIKE JESUS.**
15. **THE TRUTH IS THAT IT DID HAPPEN.**
16. **THE TRUTH IS THAT NOT ONLY THAT HAPPEN – HE'S GOT SOME MORE THINGS THAT ARE GOING TO HAPPEN.**
17. **ONE OF THESE DAYS, THE SKY IS GOING TO ANNOUNCE HIS COMING.**
18. **GABRIEL SHALL BLOW HIS TRUMPET.**

**19. HE'LL STAND ON THE CLOUDS,**

**20. AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE,**

**21. AND THOSE WHO WILL BE ALIVE WILL BE  
CAUGHT UP TO MEET HIM.....**

**YES, SOME GLAD MORNING, WHEN THIS LIFE IS OVER, I'LL  
FLY AWAY.**