

Exposing Enemy Secrets

I. Enemies Remembered His Words Better Than Disciples, Mt.27

Three times: promised death,
burial, resurrection

- Disciples never understood
- Enemies understood, yet failed

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II. Enemies Failed Even When They
Succeeded, Mt.27

- Could not keep Him from finishing His work, Jn.19:28, 30
- Enemies could not stop preaching of gospel, Ac.5:28
- Activated God's plan, Ac.2:23 (5:29)
- Gospel spread throughout world, Col.1:23
- Enemies failed in time and eternity, Ac.2
- His resurrection highlights power of God, Ro.1:4

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II. Enemies Failed Even When They Succeeded, Mt.27

III. Enemies Knew Jesus
Was Dead, Jn.19:31-34

They would not take body down
before knowing He was dead

- Scourging, crucifixion, spear, cold neglect of tomb – alive or dead?
- Roman soldiers were professionals
- The dead stay dead... (Mt.22)
- Enemies fear 'lying disciples' -Irony:
 - Only liars: Jews and soldiers
 - Mk.15:43-45, Pilate's confirmation

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IV. Enemies Used Roman Guards To Prevent Theft, Mt.27:65-66

Plan backfires: impossible to steal body

1. Romans guards DID NOT sleep on duty
2. Disciples COULD NOT overpower guards
 - Demoralized and afraid; no motive

Enemies **CAN** keep disciples from getting **IN**
CANNOT keep Jesus from getting **OUT**

3. Disciples WOULD NOT even try: their hope was gone

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V. Enemies Knew Truth;
Rejected It, Mt.28:1-4, 11-15

Jewish leaders were prejudiced, dishonest, hate-filled

- Used deception to arrest Him, Mt.26:14-16; 27:4
- Broke own laws at trial, Mt.26:59-66
 - 59: liars; no fair trial, change venue
 - 59: kill Him...desperate for conviction
 - 60a: many false witnesses
 - 60b-61: sample: temple remarks
 - 62-64: self-incrimination
 - 65: hypocrites . . . 66: death

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- Broke own laws at trial, Mt.26:59-66
- Crowd control, Mt.27:20 (23)
- Pretend honesty, Mt.27:39-42
- Bribery, 28:11-15

Soldiers, 28:2-4, great fear

- 11: report to Jews
- 12: blood money (as with Judas)
- 13-14: script for soldiers: "disciples stole body while we slept"
- 15: coverup begins

Holes in the story

- Lk.24:25-27, disciples not convinced by 1Scripture, 2sightings, 3signs at cross (Mt.27:51-54)
- Lk.24:37-38, don't believe own eyes
- Jn.20:24-28, Thomas
- Mt.28:11-13, publish the very report the guard was to prevent

What they cannot deny –

- 1. Guard was there to prevent the theft of the body.
- 2. Body was in the tomb when the stone was sealed.
- 3. Body was no longer there.
- Jn.20.24-28, Thomas
- Mt.28:11-13, published the very report the guard was to prevent

Lessons

1. Jesus and sin.

- No one could find a single flaw.
- We must eliminate flaws He sees in us.

Lessons

1. Jesus and sin.

2. Jesus and Scripture.

- Everything He said and did harmonized with OT. Lk.24:25-27

25 Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”

27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Lessons

1. Jesus and sin.
2. Jesus and Scripture.
3. Jesus and signs.
 - Too much for some to deny – Ac.2; 6:7
 - People with means, motive, opportunity; cannot not resist evidence

How to deny historical facts?

Thomas West

- Denies Jesus' resurrection because...
 - Resurrection is impossible from scientific perspective
 - Only other alternatives –
 1. Stolen by enemies???
 2. Stolen by friends???