

EASTER OFFERING



The First Easter Offering

Cast: Guard—preferably costumed
Priest—preferably costumed
Elder—preferably costumed
Narrator—may be on- or offstage

Props: Table
Two Chairs
Bag of Coins

*(Table and chairs are on stage.
Priest and Elder enter. Priest has
bag of coins hidden in clothing.)*

Narrator: Today we present “The First Easter Offering” adapted from Matthew 28. This brief drama sketch emphasizes the power of money for both good and evil.

Journey with us back 2,000 years to the morning of our Lord’s resurrection. The setting is the temple in Jerusalem.

(Guard enters and pauses near Priest and Elder.)

Guard: Your holiness, please hear me.

Priest: What are you doing here? Were you not given an assignment?

Guard: Sir...some strange things have happened. And...the **Galilean is gone!**

Priest: Gone! This is no time for nonsense. What happened?

Guard: We kept our watch faithfully, sir. Then, just before daybreak, the earth began to quake!

Then a shining figure like a man...but not a man, sir...a-an angel—with a face like lightning—appeared! We were shocked and trembling violently, sir!

The angel moved the great stone from the grave’s opening and sat on it. **There was no one inside!**

Two women were standing nearby. The angel spoke to them and said, “Fear not! You are looking for Jesus. He is not here; He has risen as He said. Go tell His disciples that He will meet them in Galilee.”



The angel is gone, but six of our men are still at the tomb. I came to tell you what God has done!

Priest: “What God has done!” You...you are a Roman, not a Jew! *(pause)* Wait outside until we call you. *(Guard exits.)*

Priest: *(to Elder)* Well, you have heard the story of the security detachment! You are an elder in Israel, **what do we do now?**

Elder: This is a very strange...phenomenon. There is only one thing to do—**pay the guards.** Stamp it out! **We must keep this thing quiet!**

Priest: Yes, yes! We must give the guards enough money to help them “forget” their embarrassment and to do what we say.

(Calls offstage) Guard! *(Guard enters.)* It is of utmost importance to us—and to our nation—that this...this “resurrection thing” be suppressed. It must be kept quiet, **be forgotten!**

If people ask, you must tell them that the Galilean’s disciples came by night and stole His body away while you slept.

If this reaches the governor’s ears, we will take care of him and protect you.

(Pauses, reaches for money bag, and tosses it to Guard) Now, here is a **substantial gift** for you and the other guards to help you “forget” your embarrassment...and to **remember that His disciples took His body away!**

This “resurrection thing” must be kept quiet! Do you understand?

Guard: *(Picks up bag and bows)* Yes, sir! Thank you, sirs! *(Guard exits)*

Narrator: So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed.

The first “Easter offering” was given by “the church” to Roman guards as a bribe, requiring them to lie about the Resurrection events and to keep the truth suppressed.

Now, the Church of the Nazarene receives an Easter Offering each year to send “Resurrection Hope” around the world. Please give so others may learn of Jesus’ sacrifice.

(Priest and Elder exit.)

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