

# Matthew 27.57-28.15 - Sermon Notes - January 23, 2022

## BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

### THE BURIAL

#### 1. (27.57-61) THE GARDEN TOMB

- Joseph, a rich man, asks Pilate for the body of Jesus
- John mentions in His Gospel that Nicodemus was also there helping
- not much time because of the Sabbath ([Luke 23:54](#))
- a new tomb - no one had been buried there ([John 19:41](#))
  - (Jon Courson) When General Gordon, a godly man, discovered this tomb in 1885, he did a very wise thing. He took a jar of soil gathered from the floor of the tomb to some chemists and asked if there was any trace of decomposition in the soil. The analysis found that there was no trace of decay in the tomb. Indeed, there never was.
- the large stone rolled over the entrance
- also present were two women who loved Jesus

**\*\*\* show videos and pictures \*\*\***

#### 2. (27.62-66) THE TOMB SECURED

- While He was still alive: In this, the enemies of Jesus admit that Jesus is dead. They did not believe the "Swoon Theory," a conjecture that denies the resurrection, saying that Jesus never really died, but just "swooned" on the cross, and then somehow wonderfully revived in the tomb.
  - A humorous letter to the editor to a Christian magazine accurately evaluated the "Swoon Theory":
    - Dear Eutyclus: Our preacher said, on Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think?  
Sincerely, Bewildered
    - Dear Bewildered: Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails with 39 heavy strokes, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear through his heart; embalm him; put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens. Sincerely, Eutyclus

- it is interesting that the enemies of Jesus remembered Him talking about His resurrection, while His disciples didn't

- the tomb is sealed, and guarded

- (Rich Cathers) Pilate assigns a Roman guard to watch over the tomb.

Roman historical records tell us that a Roman guard unit consisted of 4-16 men (Josh McDowell, "A Ready Defense"). Typically, four men would be on guard at a time while the other twelve slept in a semi-circle around the men on duty. The men would rotate in four hour shifts. For someone to slip past the guard, he would have to get past the sleeping men and then get past the men on duty.

\*\*\* Play S. M. Lockridge video \*\*\*

## **THE RESURRECTION**

### **1. (28.1-8) HE IS RISEN**

- this would be early on Sunday morning

- the two Mary's were the same ones who were at the tomb a few days earlier

- the earthquake was not to let Jesus out

- notice what happened to the guards when they saw the angel

- the message = He is not here, He is risen

- show picture of the empty tomb

### **2. (28.9-10) THE FIRST WITNESSES**

### **3. (28.11-15) THE ATTEMPT TO SPIN THE EVENTS**

- the beginning of attempts to discredit the Resurrection

- Swoon theory
- the disciples stole the body
- they went to the wrong tomb
- they were hallucinating because of their sorrow

- don't you know that the Jews would've produced the body if they could have

- the essence of the gospel

- [1 Corinthians 15:1-4](#) Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

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