



Small Group Study Questions

Sermon on April 9th, 2023

Matthew 27:57-28:15 (NASB)

57 Now when it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea came, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. **58** This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given *to him*. **59** And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, **60** and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. **61** And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

62 Now on the next day, *that is, the day* which is after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, **63** and they said, "Sir, we remember that when that deceiver was still alive, He said, 'After three days I am rising.' **64** Therefore, give orders for the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, His disciples may come and steal Him, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." **65** Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." **66** And they went and made the tomb secure with the guard, sealing the stone.

28 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. **2** And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone, and sat upon it. **3** And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. **4** The guards shook from fear of him and became like dead men. **5** And the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. **6** He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. **7** And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

8 And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to report to His disciples. **9** And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Rejoice!" And they came up and took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him. **10** Then Jesus *said* to them, "Do not be afraid; go, bring word to My brothers to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

11 Now while they were on their way, some of the *men from the guard* came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. **12** And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, **13** and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him while we were asleep.' **14** And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and keep you out of trouble." **15** And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews *and is* to this day.

DIGGING DEEPER

What is the biggest non-truth that you have believed at one time or another? (Could be something funny or serious)

How do you determine what is true or not true?

Read Matthew 27:57-66

What are Joseph and the women feeling at this moment?

What are the religious leaders feeling at this moment?

What is Pilate feeling at this moment?

In verse 64 the religious leaders throw out a “what if” statement. Do they have any grounds that this might happen? Why does this make them worried?

Read Matthew 28:1-10

Did the fears of the religious leaders come true? What should have been worried about?

DIGGING DEEPER

The women obey the angel and then meet Jesus in verse 9. Notice what the women do...does Jesus rebuke them for doing this? Why is this significant?

Read Matthew 28:11-15

The fear that was shared is now being spread as truth. Why do lies like this get spread from person to person?

How will you verify the truth of what you will believe in your life?

TAKING IT HOME

PRAYER REQUEST

