

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS
Saved To Follow Jesus
Matthew 27:57-28:20
Week 56 September 12, 2021
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The religious leaders have succeeded in having Jesus put to death. Now they are concerned He stay dead and in the grave.

THE BURIAL OF JESUS

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. Matthew 27:57-61 NIV

The women have followed Jesus faithfully and they witness the body of Jesus placed in the tomb.

A GUARD PLACED AT THE TOMB

"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. Matthew 27:65-66 NIV

A Roman guard watched Jesus die and now a Roman guard would prevent anyone from removing the body of Jesus.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." Matthew 28:5-10 NIV

Jesus will go back to Galilee where He began and prepare not to convince the Jews only He is the Christ. He is preparing His disciples to take the good news to the nations, all nations.

THE LIES CONTINUE

To be convinced of the truth and turn it into a lie is a road you go down that is hard to come back from.

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³ telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. Matthew 28:11-15 NIV

Eleven scared disciples did not steal a body and come up with the greatest evangelical movement in history based on a lie.

JESUS COMMISSIONS HIS FOLLOWERS

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20 NIV

It takes time to come to full faith.

Our commission is to make disciples, to baptize them and teach them. A disciple is one who follows Jesus, walks with Jesus, talks with Jesus, loves like Jesus.

A disciple hears Jesus, understands Jesus and obeys Jesus.

Jesus is God. He will always be with us. Jesus' words are true and apply to our lives.