

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 28:

vs. 1-10:

Mary Magdalene and Mary (the wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John) went to the tomb on the 3rd day (Friday, Saturday and Sunday)--Jews considered a part of a day equivalent to a full day) to look at the tomb on Sunday morning at dawn.

The guards who were watching the tomb (probably aware of the miraculous events surrounding Jesus' death) experience an earthquake at the tomb, saw an angel come down from heaven and roll back the stone. Seeing this radiant figure, the men became powerless to move and responded as though they were dead.

The angel spoke to the women and informed them that Jesus had risen. They were to go and tell the disciples of the fact and that Jesus would meet them in Galilee.

The women left with joy and went to tell the disciples. On their way, Jesus met them and after they had fallen at His feet to worship, He re-iterated that they were to inform the disciples that He would meet them in Galilee.

vs. 11-15:

Some of the guards had now recovered and went to inform the chief priests of the turn of events. The chief priests then met with the elders of the people and they devised a plan, which they bribed the soldiers to use. The explanation that the disciples "stole" the body while they were sleeping would, in their minds, explain the events and this is the same explanation that the Jews have given ever since (now, some write the resurrection off as being just merely a dream; yet this theory is not practical either). If the soldiers were ever threatened with punishment because they failed to perform their job, the religious leaders promised to come to their aid and plead their case.

vs. 16-20:

The remaining 11 disciples (Judas Iscariot was now dead) met Jesus in Galilee on the mountain. They worshipped Him, even though some still could not believe it. Jesus then told them that He had been given the power to reign on heaven and earth and that they were to serve Him by teaching people to follow Christ, being immersed (in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost) and then to continue teaching them all about Jesus' life and message, instructing them to be obedient to these teachings. Jesus concluded by consoling His disciples with the fact that He would always be with them.

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 28:

1. Who went to the tomb on the first day of the week?
2. What caused the tomb to be opened?
3. What happened to the guards?
4. Where did the angel tell the women that Jesus was?
5. What were the women told to do?
6. How did the women respond, upon seeing Jesus?
7. Who devised a plan?
8. What were the guards to tell people?
9. What would the chief priests and elders do if the governor found out?
10. How did the soldiers respond?
11. What were the disciples to make?
12. What were they to do after baptizing the believers?

BONUS:

1. What is so important about the resurrection?
2. Why were the religious leaders so concerned?
3. Do verses 18-20 apply to just the apostles? Explain.