

Pastor John Donovan, cell phone 508-380-0471  
Pastor Terry Gerlarneau, cell phone 603-455-4399  
Web site [todbc.org](http://todbc.org) email us at [opendoorbiblechurch@todbc.org](mailto:opendoorbiblechurch@todbc.org)

Friday October 1, Dr Michael Youssef, Northfield, MA see Terry or Lisa for tickets

**September memory verse, Romans 6:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Commentary on Matthew 28:11-15, Sunday September 26, 2021**

**The Roman Soldiers' Lie**

**Matthew 28:11-15 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

<sup>12</sup> When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

<sup>13</sup> saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'

<sup>14</sup> And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

<sup>15</sup> So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

*Lying* seems to be a way of life for many people. We lie at the drop of a hat. The book *The Day American Told the Truth* says that 91 percent of those surveyed lie routinely about matters they consider trivial, and 36 percent lie about important matters; 86 percent lie regularly to parents, 75 percent to friends, 73 percent to siblings, and 69 percent to spouses.

While the women were running to find the disciples and tell them that Jesus had resurrected from the dead, another group was plotting to destroy the truth of the resurrection (vv. 11-12). By now the soldiers who had been guarding the tomb realized that they were in deep trouble. For a Roman

soldier to fail in his duty was an offense punishable by death ([Acts 12:19](#)). Because of this they did not report the happenings to Pilate or to their superior officers but instead they reported to the Jewish Chief priests. They knew that these men would be as anxious to cover up the miracle as the soldiers were themselves.

Between the chief priests, the elders and the soldiers, they put together a story that would explain the empty tomb. The fabricated *lie* was that the disciples had come during the night and stolen away the body of Jesus while the soldiers were asleep (vv. 13-15). Of course, such a story would not be well received by the Roman officials. For this reason, the Sanhedrin also voted to give the soldiers a handsome bribe to spread this story.

As a part of the bargain they promised to make things right with their superiors by whatever means it took. This probably would involve the payment of another large sum of money. As a result, the *lie* was widely circulated among the Jews. What an incredible story! How could the soldiers know what happened while they were asleep? What honorable Roman soldier would have admitted to “sleeping on the job?” That would have been suicide. But temple police could be easily bribed, even though it took a large sum of money, and could more easily be protected from Pilate’s anger. The big concern of the Jewish leaders was the people’s reaction and not the truth.

### **Application**

Often it is harder for a person to believe the truth than it is for him to believe a *lie*. It is so easy for me to be guilty of listening to something about someone and learning later that it was not true? The Bible makes it plain that gossip is sin.