

Palmetto Baptist Church – April 4, 2021

The Fabrication about the Resurrection – Matthew 28:11-15

Telling the Truth about a lie.

- Mark Twain – “A lie can go around the world while truth is still lacing her boots.”
- Todd Friel in his book: “Jesus Unmasked” said: “A recent study claims that the average person lies three times per ten minutes during a conversation.”

<http://knowwhatyoubelieve.com/believe/evidence/resurrection.htm>

Historical Conspiracies about the Resurrection:

The Apostles were deceived:

- The Swoon Theory
- The Hallucination Theory

The Apostles were deceivers:

- They lied and created a myth.
- They lied and stole the body to support their myth.

Inside the Text:

I. Lies appear to work. (15)

A. Money was received.

- THEY TOOK (aorist active), THEY DID AS THEY WERE DIRECTED (aorist active)...

B. The story was believed.

- HAS BEEN SPREAD (aorist passive), make generally known or spread abroad (Matthew 9:31 – the fame of Jesus spread by the two formerly blind men whom Jesus healed)

- TO THIS DAY...

- **27:8 (a reference to the “Field of Blood”)**

- A.D. 50’s or 60’s (the date of Matthew writing the book)
- Church at Pentecost (to encourage the new believers at Pentecost to keep persevering in the midst of lies being propagated about the essence of what they believe.)
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- **Testimony of Justyn Martyr (Dialogue with Trypho)**

- A.D. 114-165
 - You have sent chosen and ordained men throughout the whole world to proclaim that a godless and lawless heresy had sprung from one Jesus, a Galilean deceiver... whose disciples stole him by night from the tomb”

- **Dr. William Craig**
 - April 18, 2010
 - Lecturing to a group of high school students about the truth of the resurrection.
 - He referred to a debate he had with a Professor from the University of California in Irvine who wrote his doctoral dissertation on the “Evidence of the Resurrection.”
 - He could not deny the historicity of the claims. His solution is that Jesus must have had an unknown TWIN BROTHER who walked around after three days. (STARWARS ESQUE)

I. Lies appear to work. (15)

II. Lies require work. (12-15)

A. You must organize the facts.

- When they had assembled – aorist/passive/participle, caused to come together based on a common interest (in this case “covering up the truth”)

B. You must cover your tracks.

- **And taken** (to take hold of something, to grasp or grab) counsel, symboulion, to engage in joint planning so as to devise a course of common action, often one with a harmful intent or evil purpose (Matt. 26:4; Mk 3:6)
- **A sufficient** (a relatively large quantity, probably implying what could be expected under the circumstances [Mk 10:46 – sufficient or great crowd gathered; Luke 8:27 – the demon possessed man was without clothes for a sufficient amount of time] **sum of money** – argyria, silver (30 pieces in Matt 26:15)

C. You must justify your actions. (Matthew 27:64)

a. The first fraud:

- i. Blaspheme
- ii. Desecration

D. You must continue the deception.

- Tell – legontes, present/active/participle, emphasis on speaking or talking with focus on the content
- Stole – eklepsan, normal word for theft
 - By night
 - While they were asleep (present, **middle** (not by choice), participle)
- We will satisfy, peisomen, (future active indicative), convince, persuade, pacify, or set at ease
- Keep out, poiēsomen, (future active indicative) to perform, to create, to bring about, to accomplish

Illustration: Getting into a fight with a fellow student and paying a girl in the class a pack of gum each week so that she would not tell on us.

I. Lies appear to work. (15)

II. Lies require work. (12-14)

III. Lies do not work. (11)

Famous Conspiracies:

- Landing on the moon (Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on July 21, 1969 – Apollo 11).
- Twin Towers destroyed by the US Government (no planes ever flew into the towers)
- Holocaust never happened...
- The truth about the lie in Matthew 28:13:
 - ¹³ and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’”
- **It was illogical.**
 - If the soldiers were asleep, how would they know what happened to the body of Jesus?
 - If the price of sleeping was death (Acts 12:19 and 16:27-28), why would they admit “sleeping on the job”?
 - The disciples demonstrated by their actions that they lacked the courage to attempt this scheme (sneak pasted 30+ guards, break the seal, remove the body, and leave the grave clothes behind)
 - By the way... THE GRAVECLOTHES were left by the thieves???

“The truth is often harder for a person to believe than a lie, and many still swallow this lie.”

- **It was irreconcilable.**
 - Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (Matt. 28:9), 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), the 10 disciples (Luke 24), the 11 disciples... including doubting Thomas (Luke 24), a special appearance to Peter (Luke 24:33-35 and I Corinthians 15:5), and then to 500 brothers at once (I Cor. 15:6)... James (I Cor 15:7), Peter (John 21)...
 - What about the martyrdom of all of the disciples minus John?
 - What about the hundreds of thousands of others who have died for their faith?

- **It was helpful.**
 - In sealing the tomb and having it guarded by soldiers they made the removal of a body close to impossible.
 - In propagating the lie, they proved beyond reasonable doubt that the body was removed.
 - Of course, no body was ever produced by His enemies.
- A. Some will accept the truth.**
- Guard – custodia, a group of soldiers on guard duty (Acts 12:4 – 4 squads of soldiers [stratioton- same word as used to describe the guards on Matt 28:12])
- B. Some will reflect on the truth.**
- Notice that not ALL of the guard came to make a report. This must imply that some were either still in shock, too scared to report, or contemplating the reality of the resurrection.
- C. Some will reject the truth.**
- **Told** – apēngelilan, to give account of something, announce, tell with a focus upon the source of the information
- **The chief priests** – high priests (2:4; 10:33; 20:18; 21:15; 26:59) those belonging to the high priestly family
- **All** – hapanta, everything; whole details, not leaving anything out (sealing the tomb, establishing the guard, the great earthquake, and the angel coming down from heaven and rolling the stone away before sitting upon it...)
- **That had taken place** – aorist, what had already happened

Apply the Text:

- **Believe the truth** (Reject the conspiracies about the resurrection.)
 - The disciples were deceived.
 - The religious leaders were deceivers.
 - God doesn't lie. (Titus 1:2)
 - Write down your questions and concerns regarding the Bible
 - Talk with the Lord
 - Search His Word
 - Seek out a mature believer who can point you in the right direction
- **Speak the truth** (Your eternal destiny depends upon it! Liars have their part in the Lake of Fire – Rev. 21:8)
 - Don't participate in the corruption of a cover-up!
 - Don't open the door for lies by withholding information or exaggerating information.
- **Share the truth** (you don't know who is really listening)
 - Some of the religious leaders believed: Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus
 - Some of the soldiers: the centurion (27:54); "some" in 28:11; Malchus (Jn 18:10)
 - The women (27:56; 28:1)
 - All but one of the disciples (John... followed by Peter... and later the other 10... the last being Thomas)