

Matthew 27v62 - 28v15

What does it mean to be deceived ?

It's a key word in our passage tonight. We'll look at the empty tomb from three different viewpoints:

Pharisees view on the empty tomb

What did Jesus say that still worried the Pharisees ? _____

What did they want Pilate to do ? _____

Why ? _____

What word did the Pharisees use to describe Jesus 27v63 ? _____

Were they right ? _____

Why is it very unlikely that the disciples would try to steal the body of Jesus ?

Answer : _____

What doesn't make sense in 28v13 ? _____

God's view on the empty tomb

Who is God's spokesperson in 28v5,6 ? _____

How do the angels words contrast with the Pharisees claim that Jesus was a deceiver ?

Answer : _____

The resurrection is vital for our salvation. Fill in the missing word from Romans 4v25

(Jesus) was raised because of (or for) our _____

That means Jesus' resurrection was necessary if we were to be right before God.

Your view on the empty tomb

The guards and the Pharisees knew exactly what had happened at the tomb. But they chose to put out a false story. What was that ?

They deceived themselves and wanted to deceive others !

The Bible talks in a few places about self-deceit (deceiving ourselves)

1. 1 John 1v8 If we say that we have _____ we _____ ourselves
2. Romans 1v18 men who s_____ the truth. That means men often try to hide the truth about God from themselves and others.

Things to learn from the passage

- 1) Don't be discouraged by people who won't admit the facts about Jesus. The Pharisees wouldn't face the truth. Jesus was risen !
- 2) Our faith in Jesus is based on a solid fact – the tomb was empty and Jesus was alive
- 3) Nothing men and women do can defeat the purposes of God. It wouldn't matter if a whole army had been guarding the tomb. Jesus would still have risen !



Memory verse

For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord
Romans 14v9