

“The Dead Truth”

Matthew 27:45-54

Today's BIG IDEA:

We must be confident in the death of Jesus to be confident in the resurrection of Jesus.

1. Three RESPONSES to Jesus' death

A. The _____ of the women (v.55-56)
(Matthew 20:20-21; Luke 8:2)

- *The presence of the women at the tomb is a marked contrast to the absence of the disciples.*

B. The _____ of Joseph (v.57-61)
(John 19:38)

- *Once a “secret” disciple, Joseph now boldly steps forward when no one else would.*

C. The _____ of the Pharisees (v.62-66)

2. Three REALITIES regarding Jesus' death

A. Jesus' body was most assuredly _____
(Luke 23:43,46; John 19:33-35; 1 Peter 3:18)

- *Jesus' body was dead, but his spirit was very much alive.*

B. Jesus' body was most assuredly _____
(1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

- *If there wasn't a dead Jesus in that tomb, then there isn't a risen Jesus from the tomb.*

C. Jesus' body was most assuredly _____

- *In their efforts to protect against Jesus' body being stolen, the Pharisees unintentionally ensured the authenticity of the resurrection.*

(Application questions on back)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you know someone who has faithfully followed Jesus even when others don't? How do they encourage you? How can you encourage them?
2. Are you like Joseph? Are you afraid to "come out" and publicly acknowledge following Jesus? Why? How can today's passage encourage you?
3. How does the description of Jesus' burial give you more faith in the resurrection?