Mt 28 (3)

## Matthew 28 The Great Commission

Main Service 12/5/2021

I. A Grievous Cover-up v 11 - 15

Hist: A Roman soldier who failed in duty was subject to the death penalty, **Acts 12:19**So these soldiers did not report to Pilate. They instead went to the Jewish priests.
They knew that the priests were as anxious to cover-up the miracle as they were.
The priests hurriedly cooked up a story to explain the empty tomb: the body was stolen.
A careful examination of this lie actually supports the resurrection of Christ.

The body could only have been taken by one of two groups: His friends or His enemies.

1. His friends had left the tomb discouraged and frightened; convinced Jesus had died. Their fear of the guards kept them from returning.

And if they had returned to take the body, they would act quickly and take the body as it was, wrapped in its grave clothes (it takes time to unwrap a Jewish burial). **John 20:4-7** 

2. His enemies would not take the body because they were trying to prevent the resurrection.

Matthew 27:62-66

They would have defeated their purpose by removing His body. And if they had taken the body, they could have silenced the church by producing it.

Pilate was not Jesus enemy; the religious rulers were.

All that mattered to Pilate was a successful Roman execution of said criminals.

Pilate was assured that Jesus had died. His job was done. Mark 15:43-45

The disappearance of Jesus' body created no problem for Pilate.

The Jewish leaders were afraid of losing their position if people believed. **John 11:47-48** So they paid handsomely to circulate this grievous cover-up among their people.

But the evidence of the resurrection is an historic fact that can be learned by anyone.

II. The Great Commission v 16 - 20

v 17 they worshipped him Matthew 2:11 & 4:10, John 20:26 - 31

some doubted Matthew 14:31 Acts 10:19-20

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The Great Commission requires:

v 18 A. Christ's Power Mark 2:10 & 3:15, Romans 1:16 & 16:25, Psalm 66:3

v 19 B. Christ's Pattern Matthew 4:23 (9:35) & 11:1, Luke 24:27, 32, 44-45

The importance of *teaching* Colossians 1:28, 2 Timothy 2:2 & 24

v 20 C. Christ's Presence e.g. Acts 18

Genesis 28:15, Isaiah 41:10 & 43:2, Hebrews 13:5-6

The right word is " world " : Galatians 1:4

end of the world - Matthew 13:39, 49 & 24:3, Hebrews 9:26