

THE EMPTY TOMB

New Testament Lesson #112

At the urging of the religious leaders, Pilate posted a guard around Jesus' tomb (Matthew 27:62-66). The guards were on duty when Mary Magdalene (MAG-da-len) and "the other Mary" went to see the tomb.

Nearing the tomb, they felt the earth quake as an angel, bright as lightning, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was so staggering that the guards fell unconscious. The angel spoke to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus ... he has risen, just as he said." The angel sent the women to tell the good news to the other disciples.

They left the tomb quickly, when whom should they meet but Jesus! They fell at his feet and worshiped him. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

When the guards woke, some went to tell the leaders what happened. They were paid a great deal of money to lie and say that Jesus' disciples stole his body.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Parallel accounts are found in Mark 16:1-8 and Luke 24:1-12.
- Jesus' disciples had all run away when he was arrested, but here he calls them his brothers.

The Empty Tomb

- I. Pilate posted guards at Jesus' tomb.
 - A. An angel rolled back the stone.
 - B. The guards fell unconscious.
- II. The angel told the women Jesus had risen.
- III. The women met Jesus, who told them to tell his "brothers" to go to Galilee.
- IV. The guards were paid to say Jesus' body had been stolen.

ANSWER KEY:

"He is not here; He has risen."

butterfly
sun
dog
white
man

"Greetings! Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."