

### (05) Guards' Report of the Resurrection (Mt. 28:11-15)

1. "Some" of the guard reported to the chief priests (Mt. 28:11).
  - a. Evidently, desertion was less risky in the minds of those who did not report.
  - b. This particular guard detachment consists of Pilate's soldiers on TDY to the Sanhedrin (Mt. 27:65,66; 28:14).
2. The guard's report is an admissible testimony.
  - a. They did not profess an ignorance as to what happened.
  - b. They reported all that had happened. ἅπαντα τὰ γενόμενα.
    - 1) "All" would include the severe earthquake, the stone rolling and seated angel, the shaking fear, and the likeness of death (Mt. 28:2-4).
    - 2) The report would not likely specify any of the women who visited (Mt. 28:5-10).
3. The chief priests consulted with the elders to invent a myth and fund a bribe (Mt. 28:12-13).
  - a. This Sadducee and Pharisee alliance has been working together against Jesus all week long (Mt. 21:23; 26:3,47,57; 27:1,3,12,20,41; 28:12).
  - b. Despite the reported act of God and angel of God, the Sadducee and Pharisee alliance had no room for repentance and no option for truth.
  - c. Along with the bribe, the chief priests gave their assurance to cover things over with Pontius Pilate (Mt. 28:14).
  - d. The lie itself is a contradiction. If they were sleeping, how did they know what happened? If they were awake, why did they let it happen?
4. The consequences of this event.
  - a. The stolen body myth spread widely up to the day of this Gospel's composition. In early Church history, this mythology is encountered in Justin Martyr's [Dialogue with Trypho](#).
  - b. The stolen body myth remains a popular canard among 21<sup>st</sup> century atheists. See "The Plausibility of Theft" by Richard Carrier. Chapter 9 in *The Empty Tomb: Jesus Beyond the Grave* (Promethius Books, 2005).