



Daily Reflections

April 17, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 28: 8-17

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce the news to his disciples.

And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.

They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.

Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had happened.

The chief priests assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

telling them, "You are to say,

'His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.'

And if this gets to the ears of the governor,

we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."

The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed.

And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present day.

Our Scripture Reflection

In today's Easter account from Matthew we see that even though Our Lord had defeated the power of sin and evil on Calvary, the effects remain. The guards were paid a bribe by the religious officials to lie about Our Lord's resurrection. Did it work? No. Even though Matthew's community would face persecution from official Judaism, the Good News would spread like wild fire. The Truth will never be thwarted.

Food for your Journey

If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.

--Timothy J. Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* (Penguin, 2009).

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Lord Jesus, Rekindle my faith during this Easter season so that I may always be a vibrant witness to You. Amen.