

Saturday, April 8, 2023
Season of Lent
Day 40

Matthew 27:62–66

⁶² The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ ⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

⁶⁵ “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Reflection

It is the sabbath and Jesus rests from his work of bringing the new creation to bear. Just as the first creation was made through him and by him, so too is this new one. It's the seventh day; Jesus rests but his enemies can't. They have done everything they can to stop him; to deny his claim. But fear and doubt persist that not everything may be as final as it seems. So they rise and get to work.

Of course they cannot entertain that they may have been wrong and Jesus may have been telling the truth about who he was/is. If they had known they never would have laid hands on him. They persist in their ignorance and blindness but seek to secure his tomb anyways. This is reminiscent to me of Adam and Eve trying to hide from what they had done. The tomb is sealed and a guard is posted but nothing can stop what's coming next.

We are not unlike the Pharisees. We transgress, sometimes knowingly and sometimes unknowingly, and then we try to make ourselves secure; hide it, justify it, deny it. The great and terrible news is that it will be revealed. Like Adam and Eve we will be exposed, revealed. While that is a terrifying thought, it is also a hopeful one. To be exposed is to be restored (they were naked and unafraid). To be revealed is to enter a world in which truth rules not lies. That is a world of righteousness and new life. We are the perpetrators of our own harm but we long for a life of truth. That is coming and nothing can stop it. Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Lord, forgive us for putting you into a grave and trying to keep you there. Thank you that you refuse to give into our demands to remain apart from us. Thank you for tearing down our tombs and setting us free into your truthful world that is and is to come. Amen.