

Matthew 27:57-28:15 - “The Battle for the Bones of Jesus” Study Guide

Passage Outline

1.

The Physical Battle

1.

Believers: Jesus is buried by Joseph of Arimathea 27:57-61

1.

Joseph was a “disciple of Jesus” v. 57

2.

Joseph “asked for the body” v. 58 - In order to keep Jewish law, not to gain possession of Christ’s body

3.

“Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

” v. 61 - the location of this tomb was known

4.

Unbelievers: The guard at the tomb 27:62-66

1.

“after the day of Preparation” v. 62 - Manner:
Impiety? - Business on the Sabbath

2.

“imposter...fraud” vv. 63, 64 - Mindset: De
fame Christ and His disciples

3.

“tomb to be made secure” v. 66 - Means:
Keep Christ’s bones in the tomb

4.

The Intellectual Battle: The report of the guard 28:11-15

1.

“all that had taken place” v. 11 - The truth

2.

“taken counsel...we will satisfy him”

vv. 12, 14 - The conspiracy

3.

“a sufficient sum of money” v. 12 -
The b
ribe

4.

“stole Him away” v. 13 - The lie

5.

“this story has been spread” v.

15 - The

effect

6.

The Spiritual Battle: The
resurrection 28:1-10

1.

The angel: Spiritual power!
1-4

1.

“a great earthquake” v. 2

2.

“angel of the Lord” v. 2

3.

“rolled back the stone” v.
2

4.

“His appearance was
like lightning, and his
clothing white as snow.”
v. 3

5.

“for fear of him the
guards trembled and
became like dead men.”

v. 4

6.

The message 5-7

1.

“Do not be afraid...He
is not here, for He has
risen.” vv. 5-7

2.

Your response 8-10

1.

Spiritually – your
response to Christ v. 9

2.

Intellectually – your
message v. 8

3.

Physically – your
conviction about the

location of Jesus' bones v. 10

For Discussion:

1.

What would it have

meant to “win” or
“lose” the physical
battle for the bones of
Jesus? The
intellectual battle?
The spiritual battle?
Has this battle been
won? Who has won
the battle?

2.

Name one reason
“The Lost Tomb of
Jesus” documentary
could be in error that
it has discovered the
tomb—and the
bones—of Jesus
Christ.

3.

How could the general public have learned of the location of Jesus' tomb? See 27:61, and 28:15. Does this make it more likely the traditionally-held

location of Jesus' tomb is correct?

4.

Who is lying,
according to Matthew?

According to the
Jews? Whose story
do you find more

convincing? Why?
Give two reasons the
Jews' story is not true.

5.

Are angels more
powerful than God?
See vv. 2-6, Isaiah
6:2-3. How does the

angel's power
compare to Jesus'
power? Who would be
most likely to be able
to win a physical,
intellectual, or spiritual
battle for the bones of
Jesus—the Jews?
The angel? Jesus
Himself? You?

6.

What are some of the responses of unbelievers to the empty tomb? Of believers?

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