

SATURDAY... *in the grave*

Remember...

The Gospel of Jesus is all about newness... we exchange our old for His new.

Read Matthew 27:62-66

Verse 62 begins, ***“Now on the next day...”*** How gracious of God to give us another day of life each day... and with each new dawn we can awaken to more sin or awaken to ***“His new mercies”*** (Lamentations 3). We actually have a choice every time the sun rises.

Sadly though, as we read in these verses, *“Now on the next day...”* the day that Jesus lay in the grave... the chief priests and Pharisees chose more sin. Their gathering was to consult together about doing more evil, not to consult the face of God. Their gathering was to seek out Pilate, not the King of Kings.

Sometimes we are so blind. It is interesting that they referred to Jesus as, ***“that deceiver”*** when in reality they were in the greatest of deception. Oh, to seek the new mercies of God each day and allow Him to set things right within us... instead of choosing to pile more sin upon the sin of yesterday.

As we read this narrative with the understanding that these leaders had also experienced all of the supernatural things which had occurred after Jesus' death, we just have to wonder what were they truly afraid of? Were they genuinely concerned that the disciples would steal Jesus' body or was their real fear that Jesus was truly Who He said He was? If they had even just the slightest of thought that Jesus might have been the Son of God, **as religious leaders we would think they would have sought the mercy and wisdom of God on this next day, just to be sure... but they didn't.**

This next day brought more conspiring, manipulation, and effort to control. This next day only strengthened their resistance to the revelation of God in His Son Jesus Christ. How foolish of them. No guard or seal could hold back the plan and power of God. **In other words, nothing that man does is going to thwart what God desires to resurrect!**

On this day as we think about when Jesus was in the grave, may we allow what was happening on the earth be a sobering reminder to us. Each day brings a choice for us as well... a choice to awaken to the ***“new mercies of God”*** or to add to our pile of sin. It is our choice. Too often we've had nudges, promptings and reality moments from the Holy Spirit that shed light upon the sin of yesterday and call us to change. And then we awaken to a new morning, and we have a choice before us as well... to humbly draw near to the ***“new mercies of God”*** or to dig our heels into our sin for another round. Left to ourselves, we will often be just as foolish and resistant as these religious leaders. **But if we draw near, God will mercifully meet us and draw us toward His life.**

Prayer Conversation Starter...

Jesus, I know that I need Your new mercies every day because left to myself, I will be foolish...

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