

# *the end of* **SIN & DEATH**

## **Questions for Application for the Week of April 21, 2014 Easter - The End of Sin and Death - Matthew 27:62-28:20**

1. The chief priests and Pharisees feared that Jesus' disciples would steal his body and tell the people, "He has risen from the dead" (Mt. 27:64). As you reflect back upon our study of Matthew thus far, why do you think they were so threatened by Jesus? In what ways does Jesus threaten what we hold dear today?

2. Far from desiring to exact revenge for the disciples abandoning him in his hour of need, Jesus warmly calls them his "brothers" (Mt. 28:10). How should this influence us when we share the gospel with unbelievers and how should it encourage us when we fail?

3. Rather than question the guards and investigate, the chief priests assembled the elders and decided to pay off the guards to keep them quiet (Mt. 28:11-15). What do you think keeps people from investigating Jesus today and how do you think they account for the worldwide impact Christ has had on human history?

4. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What stands out to you in Jesus' words? What (if anything) do you need to take to heart and apply to your life moving forward? In what ways do Jesus' final words here encourage you?

5. As you reflect back upon Christ's resurrection and our Good Friday and Easter services, how easy is it for you to forget that the resurrection of Jesus actually happened? How should the reality of the empty tomb impact our lives on a daily basis and what practical difference could it make if we kept the resurrection of Christ at the forefront of our minds each and every day?