



# The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

## Lenten Meditations

### SECURED TOMB

Matthew 27:62-66

A little newspaper boy was standing at a corner in a Railway Station in London on a chilly cold winter night. A well dressed gentle man, steps down from a train seeing the boy shivering with cold, lacking sufficient clothes, asked him with compassion: " is it very cold? " Looking to his eyes, the boy replied, in a gentle and confident voice: " Yes Sir, it is very cold indeed, but the sun will rise soon!"

*"So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard."*

*Matthew 27: 66*

It was the opposition of the Jerusalem leadership that finally led the Roman soldiers to crucify Jesus - an unholy alliance and conspiracy between the religious leaders and political rulers. A fresh initiative on the part of the Chief Priests and Pharisees now approach Pilate to safe guard Jesus' tomb. They gathered before Pilate to plot together. But that became a blessing in disguise.

**1. They underestimate Jesus.** The Chief Priests and the Pharisees recall to Pilate a prediction made by Jesus himself about his resurrection. "We remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again'. But in their arrogance and spiritual blindness they did not believe it. As Paul says in Romans, "they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise they became fools." (Rom.1: 21,22) The Holy One of God, the long awaited Messiah is a 'deceiver' in their view.

**2. They overestimate the disciples.** The leaders wanted to nip in the bud any move on the part of the associates of Jesus to claim that he had been vindicated by resurrection. By securing the tomb, they thought, they could deny the people, particularly the disciples, access to the tomb. They expressed their apprehension before Pilate that Jesus' disciples may steal his body and may fabricate a story. This presupposition by the leaders is a clear misunderstanding of the then circumstances and an over estimation of the feeble and fragile disciples who were scattered and scary after the gruesome incident of crucifixion of their master.

Pilate grants their request. After receiving the go ahead from Pilate the Jewish authorities took all necessary steps: the stone was sealed and the guard was set. This has become a great blessing to all believers over the centuries to strengthen their confidence that Jesus rose from the dead. The guard guarantees that the body of Jesus has no other fate.

Yes, the sun will rise soon!

Prayer: Oh Lord, open our hearts to believe that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scripture and open our eyes to glimpse the glory of resurrection.

Rev. Joseph Johnny