

**WHY DO PEOPLE REJECT JESUS?**  
**A COVER-UP THAT TESTIFIES TO THE HARDNESS OF THE SINFUL HUMAN HEART**  
**YET ALSO TO THE TRUTH OF THE RESURRECTION**  
**Matthew 28:11-15**

- I. PEOPLE REJECT THE TRUTH OF JESUS BECAUSE THEY HAVE ULTERIOR MOTIVES:** The guards and the religious leaders desire to keep their sinful lives rather than to believe, so they cover up the truth they know concerning Jesus (11-15a)
- A. THE GUARDS TRAGIC RESPONSE TO THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS:** In fear of their lives the guards take money to lie about what they saw (11-15a)
1. Some of the guards at the tomb go into the city and report to the religious leadership all that happened (11)
  
  2. What had they seen? An angel descended from heaven, the earth quakes and he rolls away the stone and sits on it and the guards witnessing become like dead men (1-6)
  
  3. The guards are given a large amount of money, instructed by the religious leaders to lie and are basically assured they will not be put to death by Pilate (12-14)
  
  4. The guards take the money and lie as instructed by the religious leaders (15a)
- B. THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS EVIL RESPONSE TO THE AMAZING REPORT OF THE GUARDS:** The religious leaders reject the truth of the resurrection and fabricate a lie to be disseminated, so they can keep their own lives (11-15a, John 11:47-48)
- II. BLINDED MINDS WILL BELIEVE THE ABSURD RATHER THAN BELIEVE THE TRUTH CONCERNING JESUS:** The false story was widely disseminated among the Jews (15b)