

# THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

**About the Series:** In a confusing world, finding and discerning truth is of vital importance, especially to followers of Jesus who are to share the truth of Christ to others. We are to always speak the truth and share truthful things, so that our trustworthiness will not be compromised.

## PART 2

### SECRETS & CONSPIRACIES: The Search for Truth

Matthew 27:62-28:15 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

#### Discussion Questions

1. Why are people prone to listening in on secrets or trying to find out what the secret is?
2. We live in a world full of conspiracies and secrets constructed by Satan, the master deceiver, to draw people away from the light of Christ. In this account of one of the greatest conspiracies in the world about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we draw out four biblical principles on how to search for truth to avoid falling for deceptions. Read and discuss Matthew 27:62–28:15.

**Principle #1: Look for the agenda behind the proposition and driving the narrative (v. 27:62-64).** What claim did the Jewish religious leaders tell Pilate regarding Jesus' body? Why did they hate Jesus so much that even in death, they continued to discredit him? In this time and age, what are people's agendas for conspiring to discredit Jesus and His Word? How does Satan confuse the minds of people against God and His people? What truth in Luke 19:10 should you focus on and share with others?

**Principle #2: Think through the facts and examine the evidence for believability (v. 27:65-66).** What was Pilate's solution to the Jewish leaders' worries, and how did it actually help defend the truth that

Christ indeed rose from the dead? Why should you be careful, discerning, and wise in what you read and even in what you watch on YouTube or other sources? Why is it very dangerous to be entertained by secret societies and conspiracies like the Illuminati? What should you focus on instead of believing what you should not believe?

**Principle #3: Realize that lies are hard to refute because of underlying motivations (v. 28:11-15).** How did the religious leaders cover their lies and explain the Risen Savior to a curious public audience? Why would people before and even now accept bribes to cover up the truth? What conspiracy theories in the current pandemic have people talked about? Do you believe those theories? Why or why not? Why do you think a lot of the lies about those theories are hard to refute?

**Principle #4: Recognize that truth has no secrets; there is nothing to hide (v. 28:1-10).** What really happened during Jesus' resurrection that certainly cannot be hidden? What were the reasons why there was no way for the Roman guards to miss what really transpired that day? What truth of the gospel has been revealed to you? Is there something else that should be added to the truth of the gospel?

#### Reflect & Respond

In your search for truth, what conspiracies and unsubstantiated secrets should you stay away from? How should you focus on God's revealed truth? In what practical and realistic ways can you be more effective in living out your faith so that the truth of God's Word can be revealed through you?

#### Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the fact that there are no secrets hidden in Your truth, and we don't have to engage in any conspiracy theories that are circulating around. Thank You that we are secure in Your hands and in what we believe about You. Help us to be strong in our faith and deeply rooted in Your Word as we continue to live for You. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.