

There follows in verses 11 through 15 a narrative which is alone recorded by Matthew, that is, the report of the guard. This story tells us that while the women were on their way, some of the guard came into the city. The guard declared to the chief priests all the things which had taken place. The chief priests in meeting with the elders decided to bribe the soldiers, so that they would say, "His disciples came by night, and stole Him while we slept." So we read that "this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day." (verse 15) We will recall that the fraud theory is based upon this particular passage.

The last five verses of this chapter relate the appearance of Jesus to His disciples in Galilee. The eleven disciples had gone into Galilee in order that they might meet Jesus in a mountain where He had appointed them. When they saw Jesus, they worshipped Him, but some doubted. The expression "some doubted" may simply mean that some of the company doubted the identity of Jesus the Risen One. In this mountain Jesus gave the disciples precious words of instruction. It was on this occasion that our Lord gave them what is commonly known as the Great Commission. Jesus said, "All authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen." Here the disciples have received their marching orders! They are to go forth and teach all nations. Believers are to be baptized into the name of the triune God. This is a tremendous commission, but it is accompanied with a wonderful promise, "Lo, I will be with you always, even unto the end of the age which will be consummated at My coming in power and great glory."