

POWER AND AUTHORITY

Matthew 27:62-66

John 10:17-18: authority to lay down and take up His life!

Again and again Jesus predicted He would rise **3 days** after His death:

- To His disciples: Mt 16:21; 17:23; 20:19
- To the crowds, including His enemies: eg. Mt 12:40

It was a central charge at His trial: Mt 26:61 (cf. Mk 14:58)

Based on His words when He first cleansed the temple:

John 2:19-20

(profound truth: temple is manifestation of God's Presence; Jesus' body is the *true* Temple: cf Jn 1:14; 4:19-24)

A serious charge, involving sorcery & sacrilege, both punishable by death

So this claim was prominent in His teaching! (Note 10 parallel references in Mark and Luke to rising in 3 days)

It was even used to taunt Him on the cross (Mt 27:40)

And here His enemies bring this claim up to Pilate: 27:62-63.

So they ask for Rome's power and authority to secure the tomb!
27:64

Note: Pilate does not mock them! 27:65

And they have all of Rome's authority (seal) and power (guard) to guard the body: 27:66.

They feared Him when He was alive. They could not overpower Him:

- 3 futile attempts to arrest or kill Him
John 7:46
8:59
10:39
- At His arrest by 3-400 Roman soldiers, He still was in power:
Jn 18:4-6

Even dead they fear Him!
And with good reason!
He **rose from the dead!**

He broke the Roman seal: _____

He moved the stone: _____

Matt 28:1-4

He rose in all power and authority: Matt 28:18

He is the Stone cut from the mountain in Daniel 2 to crush the Statue,
representing the kingdoms of man, to rule over all forever! Dan 2:44-45

And this One is **with you**: Mt 28:20b

But not just for your **Comfort**

But also with a **Commission**: 28:19-20

All of you are either the **objects** of that Commission: you need to turn from
your sins and confess your need of Jesus to pay for them, forgive you,
and give you new life.

They called Him “that **imposter**” (v63). And they lied to deny His
resurrection (28:11-15)

What will it be like for them when they face Him in That Day

And what will it be like for **you**?

Challenge of 4 week Gospel discussions: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

Or you are the **subjects** of that Commission: go with purpose and
boldness to tell those in your world of a Risen Savior. And expect to see
Him change lives!

To **connect** this authority and power to your daily living:

- Authority: to tell you how to live
- Power: to enable you to live fully in joy

He is the sufficient Shepherd Who knows you

Who laid down His life for you

Who rose again to conquer Death and Rule Life!