



Grace Assembly Of God

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture: **Matthew 28**

Title: **Stick to The Truth**

Author:

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Summary of Chapter:

Matthew's Gospel closes with Jesus' resurrection, which prompted 4 responses: fear in the soldiers guarding the tomb, great joy to the women who wanted to anoint His body, propagation of fake news by the chief priests, and worship from His disciples.

Key Verses (NLT):

How does it speak to me?

¹² *A meeting with the elders was called, and they decided to give the soldiers a large bribe. ¹³ They told the soldiers, "You must say, 'Jesus' disciples came during the night while we were sleeping, and they stole his body.' ¹⁴ If the governor hears about it, we'll stand up for you so you won't get in trouble." ¹⁵ So the guards accepted the bribe and said what they were told to say. Their story spread widely among the Jews, and they still tell it today.*

In order to avoid tackling the inconvenient truth of Jesus' resurrection, a story was spun, even though they had 1st hand witnesses. And even though the soldiers' careers would be over as they faced prosecution for sleeping on the job. But the large bribe obviously helped to allay such concerns.

Are we likely to spin a story when the facts are not convenient or beneficial to us?

Recently I missed renewing my HDB parking. I was shocked to see the hefty charge when I tried to drive out. Through the Intercom I said to the lady that the system must have made a mistake. By then a backlog of cars had built up behind mine. Well, I managed to exit without payment. As soon as I could I checked and sure enough I had not renewed the parking, which I promptly corrected. The same day I wrote to HDB, explained the incident and admitted my error and asked if it was at all possible to waive the charge but if not, I was ready to pay it.

Someone once said that if we can be persuaded to bend truth, to compromise a situation, or to alter facts for a price, somebody will be glad to raise the amount. But remember the cost for the loss of character is infinite. It is always better to stick to the Truth, no matter how much it costs, discomforts or inconveniences us.

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:

How do you deal with the pressure of complying with that which you know is partly true or wholly false? How does that affect your credibility as a disciple of Christ?

Youth:

When you know something is untrue do you speak up for the truth or stay silent? Why? What would be the right thing to do?

Child:

How do you feel when someone is not truthful to you? Why would anyone want to lie? What stops you from lying?

[Parents can refer to this <https://www.biblicalparenting.org/pr-lying.asp> for help]

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:

Our loving heavenly Father, we are told to gird ourselves with truth. Help us to be people of truth and integrity so that we will not impede the message of the Gospel of Jesus' resurrection. Even if we are called fools for believing that Christ is risen, may we never be called liars and hurt our credibility as the witnesses of Your Kingdom to the world.

Thanksgiving Prayer:

I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)

Intercessory Prayer:

I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer:

I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.