

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



Devotion for November 19th, 2021

*"Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard of soldiers.
Go, make it as secure as you can.'"
- Matthew 27:65*

The "it" here was the tomb of Jesus. Typical of people since the time of Adam and Eve, the Hebrew leaders who were trying to assure that no one could steal Jesus' body were effectively trying to squelch God and His ways.

What gets in the way of God and His ways for you? Is it a wayward scholar or your family, someone or something that is so aggravating that you lose sight of your main purpose in life? If you are a Grace staff member, it is to provide a Christ-centered exceptional education where God nurtures a growing faith; if you are a Grace member, to connect people to Christ by connecting people to people. What gets between you and God and His purposes for you in your life?

Perhaps it is yourself, your own doubts about God being the God who deserves and demands your all. You have that last little lesson plan to tweak, the project deadline, the email to proof, the list is endless. Surely these are more important than reading a morning devotion. And what about the Divine Service on the weekend? You hardly have any time to yourself as it is. Surely you have more important things to do than get up early and spend an hour away from home on a Sunday morning.

It's very easy to find excuses to stay away from God, just as it was easy for those Hebrew leaders to approach Pilate and ask for a guard to be placed by Jesus' tomb. But consider what ended up happening the day after that guard was placed. Remember it? How the women went to the tomb only to find that despite the nails in His hands, the thorns on His head, and spear through His

side, despite the huge stone and small brigade of soldiers that surrounded it,
the Lord Jesus had risen and gone on ahead to Galilee,
just as He said He would.

In like manner He continues to come for you, calling you back to Him with the
promise of a respite for your soul through the forgiveness of your sins that He
earned on that cross. His blood shed there covers you now through the water
of your Baptism into Him.

Rather than being a chore to do, attending church services strengthens the
faith that He gifted you. As Advent and Christmas approach there are
numerous opportunities to attend such services and hear there the
good news of Jesus, that He died for your forgiveness and life and that in the
end, the guard did not work. He is risen regardless of anything that was done
to stop Him. He is risen and by His death and resurrection you have new life.

Praise be His Holy Name forever. Amen.

*God's blessings,
Rev. Kevin Loughran, Senior Pastor
Grace Lutheran Church & School*

Grace Lutheran Church & School | [Website](#)

