

People talk. They talk a lot. I was thinking about that last year before Easter, but I could not find a good way to share my thoughts on what people might have been saying during events recorded in the New Testament. The ideas are still there, but it seems like it might be better to simply note them, sort of like overhearing a conversation. You could probably add your own thoughts to these.

Capernaum (Luke 7:2-10)

—Did you hear about the centurion's servant in Capernaum? Guy was just about dead when the chief sent a Jewish delegation to that itinerant preacher we've been hearing about. Sound like everyone said nice things about the chief. But the weirdest thing—that servant got up and started working like nothing was ever wrong. Then the delegation came back and reported that the preacher said the man would be healed. But that fast?!!  
—A little more of that mutual respect would sure make our job in this country easier.

Jerusalem (Matthew 27:18, 26; Mark 15:10, 15; Luke 23:4, 14, 22, 23-25; John 18:38, John 19:1, 4, 16)

—(sarcastically) Fine display of Roman justice in the provinces today! First, Pilate says the prisoner isn't guilty, then has him flogged, then declares him innocent again, and then sends him to be crucified. You can just bet those Jewish leaders will make the most of this when they want a favor from him, even though they wanted the prisoner dead. Politics!

Jerusalem (Matthew 27:62-66; Matthew 18:56; John 20:19)

—Can you believe it—guard duty for the tomb of a criminal?...Yeah, someone buried that crucified "king" in a tomb. Those religious leaders showed up before Pilate today with a demand for a guard so the guy's disciples won't be able to steal the body.

—Those wimps? They haven't stuck their noses outside since yesterday. Do they really think no one knows where they are? You know how people talk, and a little money always helps grease the tongue.

—Well, those leaders are nervous. Sounds like they're hiding something.

—Aren't we all (laughing)?

Jerusalem (Matthew 27:51; 28:2-5, 11-15)

—Man, you look shaken up!

—Shocked and terrified would be more like it. We were on that tomb guard duty before sunrise this morning when there was an earthquake...Yeah, another one. But then this stunningly bright man appeared out of nowhere and we were knocked out. When we came to, the stone was rolled back from the tomb door and the body was gone.

—Gone? You mean those disciples came after all?

—Nah, those guys had nothing to do this. They're probably still holed up hiding somewhere. I'm telling you, I never experienced anything like this before, anywhere.

—So what are you going to tell Pilate?

—Him? Nothing. Mood he's been in, he'd have us killed for dereliction of duty, and I don't plan on dying over this. We're headed to Caiaphas and the Jewish council, and the sooner, the better. They're the ones who wanted the guard. Whether they believe our story or not, it's in their best interests to come up with a reason for that tomb being empty.

—Think Pilate will go along?

—After what happened the other day, what choice has he got? Caiaphas will nail him if he doesn't. Besides, he probably doesn't even want to think about the riot Caiaphas could stir up with all those pilgrims in town. And it will be easy for him to leave that stuff about the tomb out of the official report. Hey, we gotta get going!

We all talk. May our words be profitable, honest, encouraging, used to share with others the grace we have found through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to tell them of the salvation He offers to all.