



FAMILY STUDY

He Lives!

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"He Lives!"

These days, it's getting quite popular to believe in a Jesus that is not the Jesus of the Bible. With bestsellers like the Da Vinci Code and other misleading books, many no longer know what to believe about Jesus. Some say Jesus never really died. Others say that the disciples were mistaken in their belief in Jesus' resurrection. With all the doubt surrounding us today, it is important to know what you believe and why you believe it. There may come a day when you will be called to defend your faith. To this end, we have included some of the arguments you might face and some of the answers you can give surrounding the validity of the resurrection.

False Belief #1: Jesus Didn't Really Die

You've heard this one. 'Jesus didn't really die. He recovered from His wounds and moved to Italy.' This is absurd. Let's look at the record. If you look at John 19, you will see some of the horrible torture Jesus went through before His death.

- He was beaten severely (John 19:1-3).
- He was nailed to a cross and left there till He died (vv. 17-18).
- After the soldiers thought He was dead, just to make sure, they stabbed Him with a spear, where most likely the spear entered His side and pierced His heart (vv. 32-34).
- He was placed in a tomb without food or water for three days (vv. 42-44).

Now let's think for a moment. With all the injuries that Jesus had sustained, would He have possibly been able to come out of a coma, having had no water or food for several days, and have the strength to move a huge boulder, escape the notice of the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb, and leave the tomb to live out the rest of His life in hiding? It would be impossible.

Also, let's talk about the Roman soldiers. These men were trained to kill. Their lives depended on it. The Romans were also very thorough in their executions. They knew how to make sure someone was dead. How then could Jesus have remained alive under the scrutiny of His Roman executioners (John 19:32-34)?

False Belief #2: The Disciples Went to the Wrong Tomb

We know from Matthew 27:62-66 that the Pharisees and chief priests were worried that Jesus' disciples would try to steal the body of Jesus and pretend He was alive since Jesus had proclaimed publicly that He would come back to life. So they asked Pilate for guards to watch the tomb. Not only did Pilate put guards out to watch the tomb, he also had a wax seal put around the rock so that they would know if the rock had been tampered with.

Now how is it that the disciples went to the wrong tomb? There were soldiers guarding it. How many tombs in Jerusalem were being guarded by Roman soldiers? Further, the religious

leaders would have made VERY sure that the right tomb was being guarded because they didn't want Jesus' disciples to steal His body. The likelihood of the women and the disciples going to the wrong tomb seems rather remote.

Matthew 28:1-4, 11-15 Luke 24:10-12 John 20:3-7.

False Belief #3: The Disciples Stole the Body of Jesus and Pretended that Jesus was Really Alive.

As we stated before, there were soldiers guarding the tomb. They were armed and dangerous. In those days, any guard found sleeping on the job was usually put to death. The disciples weren't men of war. Do you think they could have overpowered the guards and stolen the body of Jesus? The Pharisees, when they were told how Jesus had come back to life, had to bribe the soldiers to spread the rumor that the disciples had stolen the body (Matthew 28:11-15).

Consider martyrdom. How many of you would die for a lie? If you knew you were telling a lie and you could escape death by telling the truth, would you not tell the truth? Yet every one of the disciples of Jesus, except for John, died a martyr's death, remaining true to their beliefs in Jesus. John himself, although he died of old age, suffered intense persecution for his faith. Who in their right minds would die for a cause that was based on a lie of their own making? Take time to look at their own words of belief.

Peter: 1 Peter 4:12-16 John: John 21:24, 1 John 5:3-5, 9-13
Paul: Philippians 1:20-21 2 Timothy 4:6-8

False Belief #4: People Only Imagined They Saw Jesus

Others have stated that the disciples were so grief stricken that they only thought they saw Jesus. Yet, Jesus didn't appear just once, but many times. Did all these people hallucinate at different times, even when large groups were present? Look at the following passages below to see for yourself how many different people saw Jesus at different times.

Matthew 28:8-10, 16-20 Mark 16:9-20 Luke 24:13-53
John 20:10-31 John 21 Acts 1:1-9 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Does Jesus' Resurrection Matter?

Yes! The foundation for Christianity depends on the resurrection of Jesus. If He did not come back to life, then our faith is in vain. This is why it is so vitally important to know answers for people who doubt Jesus' death and resurrection. As we celebrate the Easter season, take time to study the Scriptures and strengthen your faith! Jesus is alive! Hallelujah, He's alive!

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

Jesus is Risen! He Has Risen Indeed!