

THE GRAVE FACTS

Dear Friend:

From the day Jesus rose from the dead until the end of time as we know it, there will always be those who deny the resurrection. There may be just as many or more who have serious doubts about the resurrection, but they do not completely deny it. Stories, lies, and theories have been put forth to try and deny that Jesus actually rose from the dead. There are three most popular stories that have been “out there” since the first Easter. Let’s make it sound “nice” and call them theories...

First theory: Roman or Jewish authorities took Jesus’ body. This story makes no sense. If they stole the body, why did they try to accuse the disciples of stealing it? Why not just produce the body and disprove the resurrection? Theory two: The disciples stole Jesus’ body. This does not fit what we know about the disciples. They were not dishonest men. On the night he was betrayed they did not know he was going to be killed, let alone rise from the dead. How did 11 men who ended up scattering across Asia and Europe keep such a secret about a stolen body? This theory also does not make sense. Every one of them except John died by torture of some sort, why would they die for a lie? Don’t you think that at least one of them would have “cracked”? Theory three: The women went to the wrong tomb. They went to an empty tomb, a person not yet buried but they didn’t know that, and they presumed Jesus rose from the dead. Multiple problems with this theory...Peter and John went to the wrong tomb too. Why didn’t the Jewish or Roman officials just take all who went to the wrong tomb to the right tomb and prove Jesus was still very much dead?

Now...a few grave facts: the Bible records the fact that after the resurrection Jesus was seen by over 500 people. Surely if he had not risen from the dead, wouldn’t multiple people from that crowd deny that it was Jesus they saw? Another fact: If Jesus didn’t rise from the dead why were the Roman guards paid to say that the disciples stole the body? Another fact: the disciples really did not have enough time to steal the body. Being observant Jews, they could not travel or work from 6:00pm Friday until 6:00pm Saturday. They would have had to have a pre-planned place to meet, a pre-planned method to move the rock, a pre-planned place to take his body and a pre-planned way to hush the guards. Since the disciples didn’t even know Christ was going to die until Friday morning, how did they have time to put the plan together? The fact is, I believe Jesus rose from the dead, you believe Jesus rose from the dead, now let’s go out and tell others, armed with the facts.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Vallerie Mateash (Ukranium war refugee in great need who visited our church), recent tornado victims, someone you know who does not know Jesus.

Events: This Sunday, April 9th - 7:00am Easter Sunrise Sunday School Class & breakfast – You are invited!