



DAY ONE: The Empty Tomb—No Hoax, Just Truth

KNOW IT!

1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV)

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Matthew 28:11-15 (ESV)

While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

One of the oldest attempts to discredit the Resurrection of Jesus is the theory that His disciples stole His body while the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb slept. This rumor was first planted by the religious leaders of the day (as you read in the above Scripture passage), and amazingly, it still circulates among skeptics. But when examined, this theory quickly falls apart.

Roman soldiers were held to strict discipline. Falling asleep on duty meant a likely death sentence. The idea that all of them conveniently dozed off while a

group of terrified, untrained disciples sneaked in to roll away a massive stone —without waking anyone, no less—is not just far-fetched, it’s illogical.

Not only that, but Scripture makes it clear that the disciples were in hiding, fearing for their lives after Jesus' crucifixion (John 20:19). They didn’t expect the Resurrection, much less have the courage to stage a body-snatching mission. Most compelling of all, nearly every disciple went on to be persecuted and martyred for proclaiming that Christ had risen. People don’t willingly die for something they know is a lie.

The Resurrection wasn’t a trick or a hoax. It was a powerful, history-altering event that proved Jesus is who He claimed to be—the Son of God, victorious over death and the grave.

LIVE IT! SHARE IT!

The Resurrection is not only the foundation of our faith, it’s the proof that Jesus is who He said He was—the Son of God, the Savior of the world. The enemy continues to spread doubt, just as the Pharisees did through bribery and lies. But the truth has stood for over 2,000 years and continues to transform lives today.

- Do you believe in the risen Christ with the same conviction that the disciples had—enough to boldly live for Him in a skeptical world?**
- Boldly Stand for the Truth: Don’t shrink back when others question your faith. Like the disciples, be a witness to the truth of the Resurrection. Share your testimony with someone this week.**
- Strengthen Your Faith with the Word: Take time to study the Resurrection accounts in all four Gospels. Ask God to deepen your confidence in His power and truth.**

“He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.

Come, see the place where he lay.”

—Matthew 28:6 (ESV)

*reasons for hope**