

April 20 & 21, 2019

Easter at the Chapel

The Collusion Theory:
Jesus body was stolen by the disciples.

The Collusion to Kill Jesus:

1. Caiaphas, Herod and Pilate were “enemies.”

Caiaphas was the High Priest.

Pilate was the Roman governor.

Herod was “the Jewish King.”

Luke 23:12 That day Herod and Pilate became friends — before this they had been enemies.

2. Caiaphas, Herod and Pilate colluded to kill Jesus.

Caiaphas wanted Jesus dead.

John 11:49 . . . Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! 50 You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.

Herod wanted Jesus dead.

Luke 13:31 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

Pilate gave the order to execute Jesus.

The Collusion to Deny the Resurrection:

Matthew 28:12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

1. Pilate and Caiaphas coordinated the guarding of the tomb.
2. Caiaphas gave “a large sum of money” to the guards to say the disciples stole the body.
3. Caiaphas promised the guards, “If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.”

The Collusion Collapse:

1. The Romans could have squeezed the disciples to hand over the body.
2. Pilate, Caiaphas and Herod never produced the body of Jesus.
3. There were 500 witnesses to the risen Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:3 *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*

The Resurrection Changes Our Lives Today

1. The Resurrection is the proof of our faith.

John 2:18 *Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"*

19 *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."*

Matthew 27:62 *The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."*

2. The Resurrection is the pardon for our past.

Romans 10:9 *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

3. The Resurrection is the power for our present.

Ephesians 1:18 *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead ...*

4. The Resurrection is the promise of our future.

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*