



**Sunday April 01, 2018**  
**Dead or Alive : The Truth about the most wanted**

## **What Actually Happened**

Read: **John 19:31-37; Matthew 27:57-66; Matthew 28:1-20**

The Lord Jesus was crucified by the Roman soldiers.  
He was verified dead by the Roman soldiers.  
The Roman Soldiers a battalion of 16 trained men stood guard before the tomb.  
But the tomb stone was rolled away. The guards were unable to do anything. Immediately a conspiracy was created stating that the body has been stolen by the disciples.  
However, the Lord Jesus appeared to many of His disciples and as many as 500 people over the next 40 days, commissioned His disciples to go preach the Gospel, promising to return, and He ascended into heaven.

## **Claims Against the Resurrection**

**#1, The Wrong Tomb :** Well if the disciples had gone to the wrong tomb, the Roman soldiers would still be there at the right tomb guarding the body, and would have produced the dead body, the moment the disciples claimed that Jesus had risen from the dead.

**#2, The Body Stolen :** All the disciples had fled in fear when Jesus was apprehended. These same cowardly disciples could not have suddenly come to fight a battalion of 16 Roman soldiers, overpower them and steal the body of Jesus!

**#3, The Jewish or Roman Authorities Moved The Body :** Well if they did, the first thing they would have done, when the disciples preached that Christ had risen, was to produce the dead body, and dissolved Christianity once and for all.

**#4, Disciples Hallucinating :** Christ appeared to many people. He ate with them. He let them touch his hands and side. They saw Him perform the miraculous catch of fish again. He spoke to them. None of this could be an illusion.

**#5, Jesus Didn't Really Die, Maybe Swooned :** First, it clearly verified by the Roman soldiers that Jesus died on the Cross. Even if Jesus had not died, but slowly recovered over 4 months from all the wounds He suffered...we would not have had such courageous disciples preaching the Gospel within 50 days after His crucifixion!

**#6, The Disciples Preached A Lie :** This means they died for a lie. Eleven of them were martyred. And most importantly many of those who opposed the message of Christ came to believe including a man named Saul (will speak about this shortly).



## Claims for the Resurrection

**FACT #1: BROKEN ROMAN SEAL** : Practically speaking, no one would be able to get past the Roman guards to steal the body.

**FACT #2: EMPTY TOMB** : The empty tomb was there for all to see. The same tomb where Jesus had been placed, which was sealed, and the stone that had been rolled away, were all there, for all to see.

**FACT #3: LARGE STONE MOVED** : How could a nearly 2 tonne stone, be quietly rolled away with 16 Roman soldiers around it. The stone was also moved uphill and positioned there. This had to be a work of God. Could not have happened by a handful of weak disciples.

**FACT #4: ROMAN GUARDS RUN AWAY** : Why would trained fighting soldiers run in terror unless something really overpowering happened, as recorded in the Gospels.

**FACT #5: GRAVE CLOTHES TELL A TALE** : Why would anyone who came to steal the body, leave behind the cloths that covered the body? They would have hurriedly moved the body with the grave clothes.

**FACT #6: JESUS' APPEARANCES CONFIRMED**

500 Eye Witnesses 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Hostile Witnesses (own brothers) : John 7:1-5, Acts 1:14

Hostile Witnesses (Saul of Tarsus)

**FACT #7: THE DISCIPLES' OWN LIVES** : The disciples went and preached everywhere. Nothing could stop them. They gave their lives for this.

**FACT #8: LIVES ARE TRANSFORMED AND MIRACLES STILL HAPPEN IN HIS NAME** : A dead man cannot work miracles. Demons are cast out and miracles happen even today. The Bible claims that He is the same, yesterday, today and forever!

## Why Does All This Matter To Us, Anyway?

Gospel Message.

We have all sinned. Our sins have their consequences. We need a Saviour.

Jesus Christ was God who came to save us from sin and its consequences.

Because He completed the work on the Cross and rose up again, we can have salvation.

Romans 6:23

## Invitation

### Reference:

Christianity Hoax or History, Josh McDowell, ISBN 81-7820-136-4, 1989



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

**Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at [apcwo.org/sermons](http://apcwo.org/sermons) . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

**LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passages: *Isaiah 53. Mark 16.*

**INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

*Please take time to review the Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday Messages.  
Share insights you have received and how you apply them to your own life.*

Pray for each other to be able to receive and enjoy redemption blessings.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**



Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

*1, families to be protected and strengthened*

*2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

Close by thanking God together.