

## THE LIE THAT PROVES THE RESURRECTION

Reference: **Matthew 28:11-15**

Pastor Larry Webb

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*"In a profound sense, Christianity without the resurrection is not simply Christianity without its final chapter. \_\_\_\_\_, it is not Christianity at all."*

**Gerald O'Collins**

Reference: **I Corinthians 15**

**verse fourteen**, *"And if Christ is not risen (if there was no resurrection), then our preaching is **empty** and your faith is also **empty**."*

**verse seventeen**, *"And if Christ is not risen (if there was no resurrection), (then) your faith is **futile** (and) **you are still in your sins!**"*

Different alternative theories have been manufactured in an attempt to discredit Christ's resurrection:

- the \_\_\_\_\_ theory
- the \_\_\_\_\_ theory
- the \_\_\_\_\_ theory
- the \_\_\_\_\_ theory...also called the **resuscitation** theory
- the \_\_\_\_\_ body theory
- the \_\_\_\_\_ theory or \_\_\_\_\_ theory

This argument states that the disciples stole His body in order to deceive people into thinking He had been resurrected and in fact, He hadn't.

Reference: **Matthew 28:11-15**

**verse eleven**, *"Now while they (the women who had just seen Jesus in His resurrected state) were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city (Jerusalem) and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened."*

**verse twelve**, *"When they (chief priests) had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers."*

**verse thirteen**, *"saying, 'Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'"*

**verse fourteen**, *"And if this comes to the governor's ears (Pontus Pilate) we will appease him and make you secure."*

**verse fifteen**, *"So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day."*

This outrageous lie forced people to re-examine the resurrection and a logical, biblical and historical examination of Christ's resurrection proves that the body was not stolen. The four reasons it couldn't have been stolen just reinforce the fact Jesus was resurrected from the dead.

One is the problem of the \_\_\_\_\_

Two is the problem of the \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference: **Matthew 27:62-66** (see screen)

Three is the problem of the \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference: **Matthew 27:59-60** also **John 20:1** (see screen)

Four is the problem of the \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference: **John 20:3-7** (see screen)

*"There exists such overwhelming evidence, (both) positive and negative, (both) factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story \_\_\_\_\_!"*  
**Lord Darling** (former Chief Justice of England)