

Resurrection bluff.

*Peter and Suzanne trying to convince the disciples to make the resurrection into a hoax.*

*Peter and Suzanne come to the front.*

P- so, Jesus is dead, and that sucks. I know that a lot of us have given stuff up in the hopes that he might have changed things. And when he kicked the Romans out many of us thought that we might soon be in a position of influence and power. But we're not. We're, at present, a little nervous of a similar fate as Jesus, locked in a room.

S - but don't be disheartened! We have a plan! We've been talking and we think we might be able to convince everyone that it's not quite over!

Bartholemew - excuse me, but I think the crucifixion might have convinced people that it IS over. Crucifixion has a tendency to end things quite well. We all saw Jesus being tried, beaten, humiliated, stripped naked, dying and being buried. That's all pretty final. Well and truly over some might say?

P- thank you for your insightful observation Bartholemew. But what if we could convince people that Jesus was alive?

Bartholemew- but he's dead.

S - what Peter means is not that we convince people he is **still** alive, but alive **again!**

P- like a resurrection!

*Awkward silence.*

P- what do you think?

Thomas- er...I wonder if it might be quite hard convincing people that Jesus has risen from the dead? Gentiles don't believe that sort of thing happens and Jews think it'll only happen at the end of time. Do you really think they'll start believing this?

S - good question. We've thought about that and we're sure they'll change their beliefs very easily. People probably do it every day, and beliefs about life after death are the easiest beliefs to change, it's not like there's much riding on that!

P- but anyway, let's move on. I think it will greatly help our cause if people think Jesus is alive. I know that not everybody liked him as much as we did towards the end, and yes, I got a little bit scared that the same sort of thing might happen to me, I mean us. But if we start spreading this rumour that Jesus is alive again, I think everything will change and people will start loving us!

James - so nothing will go wrong? People won't try and crucify me if I go around saying that Jesus is alive?

P- no, absolutely not! I can safely say that nothing bad will ever happen to you just because we made up this story. It will only lead to power and wealth!

S - there is admittedly one problem. Jesus is dead. And in general people know that dead people stay dead.

P - personally I don't think we need to worry about this. It'll only be clever people in the future who think that. The simple folk of today will believe anything, they don't necessarily know that dead people stay dead.

S - brilliant, so we've decided that we're just going to start telling people that Jesus is alive! Any question?

James - won't they just go to the tomb and discover that he is, in fact, very dead still?

S - I didn't think of that. Did you think of that?

P- I didn't think of that. We'll need to get the body moved.

S - maybe someone will just steal it anyway?

P- yes I'm sure they will! I'm sure everybody wants to risk their lives stealing the naked body of a penniless preacher.

S - ok, may be the authorities might move it and we can just say that he's gone!

P - no, come on think! If we say that they'll just produce the body again...there is only one thing for it. We'll have to steal it.

S - us? You? Two days ago you ran away scared and cried when a little girl ask you if you just knew jesus! Now you want to take on a guard of Roman soldiers.

P- I'm feeling better now, and anyway how many of them can their be?

S- about 20.

P- lets bribe them.

S- good idea.

P- they'll probably all be killed for losing the body, but if we offer them enough money I'm sure they'll go of it. Money is much better than life.

Thomas - I doubt that an empty tomb will be enough to convince people Jesus is alive again. Won't they just think we stole the body? We need more than that's!

P- you're right for doubting Thomas, we do need more...

S- what if we all made up stories that we saw him after he "rose again!"

P - genius. Who should be first to see him?

S - women!

P- laughs. No. We need people to believe this. No offence but people don't tend to believe women much. You don't exactly make reliable eye witnesses. If it went to a court of law the case would get thrown out.

S- no hang on listen. What if in the future, culture changed and people did start believing the testimony of women. That way they'd think this story was so outrageous it must be true!

P- brilliant! Yes, need to take into account the future trends of sociology. That way they'll even believe this in two thousand years time!

S- exactly!

P- who else should be eye witnesses? It can't just be us.

Bartholemew - *shouts out* - how about a hundred people all at on once!

Thomas - two hundred!

P- this is good, any advances on two hundred?

James- FIVE hundred!!

P- yes I love this!

S- hang on hang on! If we say that a group of 500 people all saw Jesus, won't others get suspicious and start asking them questions? What if those people all blab and say it was just a lie?

P- don't worry so much. We need to have a big group or people will just think we're hallucinating. Any way people are very good at keeping secrets. I'm sure they'll all gladly go to their graves repeating this lie! Everyone will believe them.

*There's a rapid knock at the door and two women run in.*

Women- you've got to come quick...its Jesus...he's gone! Someone said he's alive!

S- alive? But that could never happen?!

They run out together.

P- pah, women!