

Today's Message: "Impossible Conspiracy: Part 1"

Conspiracy Theory - The theory that an event or phenomenon occurs as a result of a conspiracy between interested parties. More specifically a belief that some covert influential agency (typically with an oppressive intent) is responsible for an unexplained event.

Resurrection Conspiracy Theories.

One: "The Disciples stole the body."

Two: "Someone impersonated Jesus on the cross."

Three: "The Swoon Theory"

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
(John 20:19 – 21)

Prophesized in the Old Testament

- *All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ⁸"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"*
(Psalm 22: 7-8)

Fulfilled in the New Testament

- *"And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of his robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him."* (Matthew 27:31)
- *"And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads." (Matthew 27:39)*
- *"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" (Matthew 27:42-43)*

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

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Pastor Scott Stevens

March 10 & 11, 2018

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The Way

- What does your way promise you?
- How does your way change you?
- Where is your way taking you?

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (Matthew 7:13 & 14)

Book Recommendations:

- “The Forgotten Jesus” by Robby Gallaty
- “Celebrating Jesus in the Biblical Feasts” by Richard Booker.

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Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

Which popular conspiracy theory do you find the most fascinating? Why?

Read Matthew 27:32-44, 27:62-28:10

- How plausible do you find these conspiracy theories: the disciples stole the body from the tomb; someone impersonated Jesus on the cross; Jesus was only injured, not killed, during the crucifixion?

Read John 20:19-21

- Why does this passage offer a better explanation of the disciples’ willingness to be persecuted and killed for their faith than the conspiracy theories?

Read Psalm 22:1-8

- Why do you think God gave people this and other prophecies about Jesus’ birth life, death, and resurrection?

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