

My name is George and I'm a private investigator for the Jewish leaders, the Pharisees, who want answers to the case of the 'Empty Tomb'. It appears that the body of Jesus of Nazareth has disappeared from his burial place and they want to know how this could have happened. I think I'll start my investigation by interviewing Jason who was at the scene of the crime - hopefully he might shine some light on this mystery.

I'm Jason and I'm a professional soldier in the Roman army. There have been some strange things happening here and my leaders would also like to know what has been going on.

George- so Jason, can you tell me what you know?

Jason- well that's quite easy! The body of Jesus has vanished.

George- Vanished?

Jason- Yes, you know - gone!

George- You mean he wasn't dead after all?

Jason - No, he was dead all right, that's not in dispute, we double checked, he was definitely dead following a most painful and horrific crucifixion.

George- So was his body put in another tomb by mistake?

Jason- No, this is the tomb belonging to Simon of Arimathea. This is this one. We supervised it ourselves to make sure there was no chance of any of friends coming and trying to take away his body.

George- so you witnessed his burial?

Jason- yes I did, he was wrapped in white cloths by his friends, as is the way in Jewish burials.

George- So did his friends take his body?

Jason - not a chance: my men rolled a huge stone to cover the entrance, it probably weighed 2 tonnes, and then we sealed it with clay and guarded it ourselves.

George- that sounds very thorough.

Jason- it was cause we weren't taking any chances.

George- but I hear that 3 days later, the stone had been rolled away and you're telling me that the body of Jesus was gone, vanished, disappeared! Did you Roman soldiers take the body? Or did you help the friends of Jesus get access?

Jason- we wouldn't dare touch the body or move the stone, otherwise it would be our necks on the line.

George- alright, so if you guys weren't involved, what happened on the day that you realised the tomb was empty?

Jason- Well, some women who were friends of Jesus came to the tomb because they were upset and they wanted to put oil on his body, and when they got there... they saw that the tomb was empty.

George- Were they sure?

Jason - yes they went in and they saw the cloths ... they had been folded up. They were really upset as they thought someone had stolen his body - they weren't expecting this to happen, it seemed to come as a shock to them and they didn't know what to do.

George- OK, so then what happened?

Jason- They were talking to each other about what they should do when they saw a man and they thought he was the gardener.

George- and was it?

Jason- No... when he spoke they recognised his voice. It was Jesus.

George- surely they must have been mistaken?

Jason- Apparently he used words that only Jesus used when he was with his friends.

George- Well, it's not exactly conclusive is it... a group of women??? Who would have listened to them?

Jason- but I hear they weren't the only ones who saw him.

George- Eh, what?! They weren't the only ones?

Jason- Everyone's talking about how the disciples were all together in a room and Jesus appeared to

them and spoke to them and ate with them.

George- but wait a minute... are you saying he only appeared to his friends?... maybe they made it up ??

Jason- seems a pretty crazy thing to make up...because talking about this Jesus around here is going to get folks in trouble with the Pharisees, and they killed Jesus. Anyway, as I heard it, Jesus appeared to 2 men who were travelling on the road to Emmaus and then he appeared to a crowd of 500 people.

George- 500 people? You've got to be kidding me!?

Jason - I've met a lot of crazy folk in this job, but 500 people do not imagine something all at once.

George - so what do you take from all this?

Jason- well, I was there when they crucified Jesus, I was there when he was placed in the tomb, and I'm hearing all these incredible things. It's pretty hard not to believe.

George - to believe what?

Jason - that he was who He said he was, the Son of God. Makes me think that his death had some meaning and maybe that He really is alive again.

George- So you really think God raised Jesus from death?

Jason- yes, it's the only answer that matches the evidence.

George- I'm not sure the Pharisees are going to like that conclusion.

Jason- Probably not, but the facts are the facts.