

Jesus is alive – the resurrection (Matthew 27 and 28)

Jesus's friends were very sad. Jesus had died and they had now buried his body in the cave. It felt like the end of everything BUT they had forgotten something very important. They had forgotten something Jesus had said. Jesus had said he wouldn't stay dead! Jesus had said he would come back; he would rise from the dead three days after he died! That's an amazing thing to say.

But the Pharisees and chief priests had not forgotten! They had remembered, so they hurried to Pilate.

The Pharisees and chief priests said to Pilate,

"Sir, we remember that when Jesus was alive he said he would rise after three days. He was a liar, of course, it's not that we BELIEVE what he said BUT we want you to order a guard for the tomb. His followers might steal his body, so that they can tell everybody Jesus is alive!"

Do you think they were secretly rather scared that Jesus might be special?

Pilate said, "Yes!" He shouted to the guards, "Guards go and make the tomb very safe!" The guards went and they put a seal on the stone and stood guard; no-one was going to steal this body.

On the Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and her friend, Mary, went to look at the tomb. They had seen Jesus body being placed in the tomb on the Friday. As they got to the cave, there was an enormous earthquake and an angel rolled the huge stone away and sat on it. His clothes were bright white. The guards were so frightened they fainted.

The angel spoke to the two women. "Don't be afraid. Look, Jesus is not here! The cave is empty! Jesus is alive! He was dead but now he is alive just as he said it would happen. Look inside the cave – Jesus isn't there - then go and tell his disciples that they will see him."

As the two Marys ran to tell Jesus's followers what they had been told by the angel, they were both very frightened but also very happy. "Jesus is alive!" they kept saying, "Jesus is alive!"

Suddenly, Jesus was there. He said, "Hello!" They touched Jesus's feet as a sign of respect – perhaps they wanted to check that he was real, too. "Go and tell my other followers I will see them in Galilee". They ran to tell them.

The guards recovered from the shock and ran to tell the chief priests what had happened. The chief priests were not happy at all. "You must tell everybody that Jesus's followers stole the body while you were asleep." They gave the guards a large amount of money to tell this lie.

But Jesus really was alive, the cave was empty. Jesus had risen from the dead, just as he said he would. Jesus's 11 disciples (not Judas) went to Galilee and met with Jesus there.