

The Resurrection

[for evangelism, Easter, or Halloween – we first used this at an Alternative-to-Halloween night, advertising the evening on leaflets and a poster reading: “Just an ordinary guy from Galilee...but he came...BACK FROM THE DEAD!” A true story that will make your hair stand on end! –see the five minute version at Richmond Park Church, 31st October...]

[Newsreader sat behind a desk to one side of stage. Interviewer and Disciple stood frozen ready for the TV cameras to switch over to them on other side of stage]

Newsreader: Weeks of unrest in Jerusalem continue as rumours abound that Jesus, the rebel leader executed last month, has come back to life. Our correspondent is there now...

Interviewer: Can you give us the background to this story?

Disciple: Yes! You see, Jesus is the Son of God, and his mission was to die on a cross to pay the price for our sins in the spiritual realm, and then to come back to life, to show he is boss even over sin and death itself.

Interviewer: So that’s what his followers believe?

Disciple: Yes

Interviewer: And Jesus told you all this before it happened?

Disciple: Yes. Jesus said it, and the old prophets.

Interviewer: So, for it to be true, Jesus has to come back to life?

Disciple: Yes

Interviewer: Are you sure he was dead in the first place?

Disciple: Yes! Like I said to Joanna, he was as dead as a dodo.

Interviewer: And what did Joanna say?

Disciple: “What’s a dodo?” So I said “It’s a bird” and she said “I’ve never seen one” and I said “That’s because they’re all dead” and then we all cried lots

Interviewer: You were crying because Jesus was dead?

Disciple: Yes

Interviewer: So how do you know he’s alive again?

Disciple: Well, first of all Mary and Mary bumped into Jesus outside the tomb, looking all clean and refreshed

Interviewer: What did they do?

Disciple: Fell at his feet and sang “Shine Jesus Shine” (*sing out of tune*)

Interviewer: And what did he do?

Disciple: He said “Sorry, can’t stop now, I’m on my way to see my Father, but tell the others I’ll catch up with them soon”. And sure enough, he joins us for a fish supper. One of us, who shall remain nameless (*cough: Thomas!*), missed that first visit and he was like “No way! You guys are tripping!” Actually, that’s pretty much what we all said to Mary and Mary when they first told us they’d seen Jesus alive. But then Jesus shows up again and He’s all like “Woah! I believe!”. And in-between Jesus seeing his father and seeing us he stopped to say “hi” to a couple of other apostles who were on their way to Emmaus. So Jesus has been popping up for the past forty days, including joining us on a fishing trip in Galilee, where he got us this massive catch. Loads of us have seen him and he is very definitely alive.

Interviewer: Where is he now?

Disciple: We’re not expecting anymore “in person” visits cause we saw him “whoosh!” into heaven. But you have to remember, he’s the Son of God, alive and kicking in heaven.

Interviewer: What does this mean for you now?

Disciple: It means everything he said is true, so even though he’s not with us now in person, we ought to get on with telling everyone we can to accept Jesus’ offer and invite him to be Lord of your life.

Interviewer: Isn’t that going to get you into trouble with anyone who doesn’t believe the whole Jesus thing, or who does believe it but is threatened by it?

Disciple: Yes, I think you are right, but it’s worth it, because it’s the truth and God is helping us. We both want to see as many people as possible living their lives with and for God, not struggling on without him

Interviewer: Back to the studio...

Newsreader: Jesus was executed in the first place to put a stop to this brand of religion. Jewish leaders are claiming the resurrection is a hoax and that his disciples have merely stolen and hidden the body of Jesus. The clamp down against followers of Jesus is being stepped up, but they continue to preach in public and sing “Shine Jesus Shine”.