

# FOCUS ON FAITH

## THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER ..... IT IS NOW?

He was a rebel, or so they thought. He didn't think like they did and seemed to contradict or criticise everything that their culture and religion stood for. Who did he think he was? After all he was just another semi-skilled labourer from a little country town – he wasn't important.

Sure, they'd seen him do some remarkable things – people who had been ill, blind or couldn't walk seemed to be healed and there were reports that even dead people became alive again. But he mixed with all the wrong people, even with women from the red light district, so he couldn't be trusted could he? After all, he wasn't respectable and he certainly wasn't like they were!

What really stuck in their throat was that he claimed he was God's son. How ridiculous – he was just another jumped up country boy who could trick and deceive. These so called miracles were just illusions; he was the Paul Daniels of their day and all he really had was an ability to manipulate crowd dynamics for his own ends.

**"It's all over", they thought .... but it wasn't! Three days later and the body can't be found**

"Let's get rid of him", they thought, "then things will go back to normal and we'll be back in charge." Let's use the local law enforcement and military government and claim he's trying to overthrow law and order. The authorities will go along with that, after all they have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

So it was done – trumped up charges, misinterpretation of what had been said, so-called "eyewitnesses" who would be economical with the truth, even a traitor from within – paid of course for information. A rigged trial, a judge who really didn't want to go along with it but for the sake of peace and order washed his hands of the matter, beatings and eventually a hanging.

"It's all over", they thought .... but it wasn't!

Three days later and the body can't be found. They'd made all the appropriate arrangements – they knew where it was supposed to be and had

an armed guard, but there it was – gone! And now there were people claiming to have seen him again – alive! Unbelievable?

Millions around the world believe the real Easter story. It's not about Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs or having a couple of extra Bank Holidays. This is about God's Son, Jesus, who lived a perfect life, died an agonising death but came back to life again so that we could have a life worth living – now and in the future.

Find out more at a church near you this Easter – it's not too late and it's not over yet.

**Easter – from the same people who brought you Christmas!**



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If you'd like to find out more about the real, radical Christian faith, log on to [www.lifting-jesus-higher.org.uk](http://www.lifting-jesus-higher.org.uk) which has details of local Christian Churches and contact details.