



*Written by  
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## “Resurrection Theories”

**Scripture:** Matthew 28

**Dramatic Category:** "Three-in-One Skit" (*With a “Skerman” option.*)

### **What is a "Three-in-One" Skit?**

This variation of a "Three-in-One Skit" presents three separate stories being told to illustrate one theme. They take place across the stage, from stage right to stage left, with the first scene freezing at its conclusion, and the next one beginning when the lights come up on it. Each scene ends up with the same conclusion or summary statement. All three scenes freeze when they are finished, and the pastor has the option of walking right up to them and using them as mannequins to illustrate his sermon. He may prefer to have the players exit the stage, but leave a prop in the scene (like a book or a folder, etc.) that he can pick up and refer to, reminding the audience what this scene was about and why it illustrates the point he is making in his sermon. This art form is very unique and surprising!

A "Three-in-One Skit" provides a very memorable introduction, conclusion, or mid-way example for the pastor as he presents the church sermon. It gives your drama ministry a first-hand opportunity to link with the pastor to create a sermon illustration that will compliment any topical or expository sermon.

**Topic:** Three “Resurrection Theories”: The “Swoon,” “Theft,” and “Hallucination” theories

**Performance Time:** 5 minutes

**Number of Players:** 6 players (*3 men, 3 women*)

### **Objective:**

This "Three-in-One Skit" helps people understand that there are three basic theories that try to disprove the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each of these theories is examined and shown to be ridiculous.

## Synopsis:

This "Three-in-One Skit" examines three resurrection theories. Carl, a believer is arguing with his friend, Patrice, a skeptic. He insists on the "Swoon Theory," that Jesus just "passed out," then rolled away the stone and left. Greg, a believer, argues with Carrie, a skeptic, as he advocates the "Theft Theory," that the disciples of Jesus simply "took" the body. Finally, Donna, a skeptic, tries to prove to her husband, Frank, who has a simple faith in the Bible, that the "Hallucination Theory" is correct and the disciples only "thought" they saw the body of Jesus. Each scene ends with the line, "No man can resurrect from the dead." This sets up the pastor's sermon to argue the case that Jesus was not an ordinary man: He is God!

## Cast:

### (Scene 1)

Carl: *a believer*

Patrice: *a skeptic*

### (Scene 2)

Carrie: *a believer*

Greg: *a skeptic*

### (Scene 3)

Donna: *a skeptic*

Frank: *a believer*

## Props:

### (Scene 1)

A table

Coffee cups

Doughnuts

### (Scene 2)

A bench or 2 chairs side-by-side

### (Scene 3)

A love seat, or two chairs

A book

A remote-control

## LIGHTING NOTE:

This skit is done in three light pools. Only the scene that is active is illuminated; the other two are in darkness. This is a "light show" in that the lit spots direct the audience's attention to the next scene. When one couple ends their scene, they freeze in position. This is a "tableau or freeze-pose" sketch. The audience is able to see all three couples at one time; however two of the three are always frozen.

## Stage Plan:

**Patrice**  
**Carl**

**Carrie**  
**Greg**

**Donna**  
**Frank**

## The Script:

**LIGHTS: UP ON SCENE 1** (*Stage Right. The rest of the stage is dark.*)

### Scene 1: “The Swoon Theory” (Carl and Patrice)

**Carl:** Now, let me get this straight.  
You don't think Jesus resurrected from the dead?

**Patrice:** Of course not.  
Jesus never really died. He just passed out on the cross.

**Carl:** (*Trying not to laugh*) He just passed out?

**Patrice:** That's right. The guards thought he was dead when they took Him off the cross, but really, He just passed out!  
He swooned.

**Carl:** Oh, I get it. After Jesus was beaten within an inch of His life, hiked down main street carrying a cross 10 times His weight, then spent the day hanging from a cross suffocating to death, and after all that...

**Patrice:** He passed out; then He came to...

**Carl:** Oh. (*in disbelief*) After all that physical suffering, He had the strength to roll away an enormous stone, knock out the Roman guards, and leave?

**Patrice:** That's right.

**Carl:** You're wrong.

**Patrice:** No; that's the only theory that makes sense.  
The fact is there was no body in that tomb, and no man can resurrect from the dead.

**LIGHTS OUT ON SCENE 1**

### LIGHTS UP ON SCENE 2: CARRIE AND GREG

*Center Stage*

### Scene 2: “The Theft Theory” (Carrie and Greg)

**Carrie:** How can you think that?

**Greg:** Because it's the only theory that makes sense. The disciples snuck up on the Roman guards outside the tomb, beat 'em up; rolled away the stone, and stole the body. That's it.... That's why the tomb was empty.

**Carrie:** The tomb was empty because Jesus rose from the dead. It's called the "resurrection" of Jesus Christ. The Christian faith hangs on that one central fact. Without it, we have no hope!

**Greg:** Come on...I thought you were a rational person. The disciples stole the body; that's the only theory that makes sense.

**Carrie:** No it isn't.

**Greg:** Look, the fact is there was no body in that tomb, and no man can resurrect from the dead.

## LIGHTS OUT ON SCENE 2

## LIGHTS UP ON SCENE 3

*Stage left*

### Scene #3: Frank & Donna "The Hallucination Theory"

*(Donna is engrossed in a Theory of the Resurrection book. She looks up and tries to get Frank's attention. He is focused on a TV screen that is just over the heads of the audience, so he is facing the audience. He has the remote control in his hands and is flipping back and forth between sports stations. He points the remote at the audience.)*

**Frank:** Would you pipe down on the psycho-babble?  
I'm trying to watch TV.

**Donna:** No. Listen this is fascinating.

**Frank:** To you maybe.  
*(He points the remote at her and tries to "click her off")*

**Donna:** To hallucinate means "to affect with visions or imaginary perceptions; to perceive or experience as a hallucination."

**Frank:** *(oblivious to her)* uhhhuhhh

**Donna:** *(wide-eyed)* I think that's what happened to the disciples of Jesus.

**Frank:** *(eyes fixed to the TV)* uhhhuh

**Donna:** They were hallucinating when they say Jesus rose from the dead; they only thought they saw Jesus, but they didn't really. What do you think?

**Frank:** *(eyes fixed to the TV)* uhhhhuh

**Donna:** The disciples wanted Him to resurrect so badly, that thought they saw Him, but it was really somebody else....That's it; they hallucinated. What do you think?

**Frank:** About what?

**Donna:** Haven't you been listening?

**Frank:** Sure, the score is 10-8.

**Donna:** No, *(she is exasperated.)* to my "hallucination theory" of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You don't think he really rose from dead, do you?

**Frank:** Sure I do.

**Donna:** How can you believe that?

**Frank:** *(looking at her intently)* The Bible tells me so.

**Donna:** Look, the fact is there was no body in that tomb, and no man can resurrect from the dead.

### **LIGHTS OUT ON SCENE 3**

### **LIGHTS OUT FOR A MOMENT**

### **LIGHTS COME BACK UP ON ALL THREE POOLS**

#### **Sermon Option 1:**

All players remain in "tableau," (frozen stage picture) and the pastor walks around each set, making his comments about their theories. The players do not respond to the pastor. At a given point, cued by the pastor, the players leave the stage, and the pastor continues his message.

#### **Sermon Option 2:**

All players exit the stage during the blackout. The pastor approaches each scene and sits where the characters sat, to remind the audience of the discoveries reflected in that scene.

#### **Sermon Points:**

**SCENE 1:** "The Swoon Theory"

**SCENE 2:** "The Theft Theory"

**SCENE 3:** "The Hallucination Theory"