a. Someone other than the disciples stole the body.
John 20:19-29—Disciples are scared and hiding, having earlier fled at Jesus' arrest. Was this a mass hallucination? Thomas, the skeptic, touched Jesus. This was no hallucination to Thomas. But perhaps it was all a hoax, the second possibility. . .

b. The Disciples stole the body
Acts 4:12-13. Remember the cowardly disciples (**Matthew 26:56**)? Peter who denied Jesus? They are now men of remarkable courage. Something had happened. In fact, according to early church history all the disciples but John died martyrs' deaths:

Peter—crucified head downward
James—beheaded by Herod (Acts 12:1-2)
Andrew—crucified
Philip—martyred
Bartholomew—flogged to death
Thomas—speared to death
Matthew—martyred
James—crucified
Jude—shot with arrows
Simon the Zealot—crucified
Matthias—axed to death

Why did these men endure such atrocities? Who would suffer and die for a lie that gains them nothing? When men are all alone and under pressure, they crack. These men did not. Why not?

6. **I Corinthians 15:1-6.** These men had seen Jesus raised from the dead. In fact, over 500 people at once saw the resurrected Jesus.

Indeed Jesus has been raised. The proof is logical and overwhelming.

3. Conclusion: Acts 26:24-29. Christianity is true and reasonable. Jesus is the Son of God! We must now make the decision to follow him.

Notes: _____