

# Did Jesus Lie?

## Daystar Church – 12/18/2005

Christmas: Fact or Fiction (Week 3)

### **Introduction:**

A. 2 weeks ago we answered the question: “What is truth?”

1. This question is particularly important in the wake of secular humanistic ideas that there is no absolute truth.
2. Does anybody remember the short answer to “What is truth?” → NO-THING IS TRUTH.
3. Truth is not a “thing” it is a person – Jesus Christ.
4. You will know the truth and the Truth will make you free.

B. Last week we answered the question: “*Is Jesus Really Messiah?*”

1. We found out that Jesus’ life fulfilled over 300 separate various prophecies given 1,500 to 400 years before His birth.
2. The sheer numbers make it hard to deny His Messiahship.
3. It actually takes more faith to believe it was all coincidental than to believe Christ is Messiah!

C. This incredible barrage of prophecy continues through the words of Jesus.

1. He makes many bold claims that he must own up to.
2. We will see that many of them have come true.

3. In fact, I'm only sure of one of them that cannot be substantiated.
4. Today's question: "Did Jesus Lie?"

## **I. Betrayal and Crucifixion.**

*Luke 9:44 NIV*

*"Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men."*

- A. The Biblical evidence seems to indicate that, early on, Jesus knew the gory details of His mission.
  1. From the beginning of time, there could be no payment for sin without the shedding of blood.
  2. Jesus knew that it would be His blood that paid the eternal payment for sin.
- B. He even predicted who would betray Him.
  1. As the disciples shared in the Last Supper:

*John 13:21, 25-27 NIV*

*Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." 25(Peter) asked him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.*

1. It is worth noting that until this point, Judas had only been tempted.
  2. Verse 2 says that the Devil put the idea in Judas' heart, but when he accepted the idea, Satan entered him.
- C. Jesus also prophesied Peter's denial.

*John 13:37-38 NIV*

*37 Peter... "Lord, I will lay down my life for you." 38 Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!"*

1. How this prophecy must have taken them all by surprise.
2. Peter was always the vocal one, quick to fight, take up arms.
3. Peter had given up everything to follow Him.
4. Why would he deny Christ?

D. Jesus also predicted His death (& the manner).

*Matt 26:1-2 NIV*

*He said to his disciples, 2 "As you know, the Passover is two days away-and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."*

1. The one who will deny him 3 times responds:

*Matt 16:22 NIV*

*22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"*

2. But Peter represents the voice of us all.
3. Who can this happen? 12 men have left all for Him.
4. Surely they will stand up for Him. Many times they have avoided capture.

E. Why now? Why here?

1. But Jesus knew His purpose.
2. Once again His prophecy proved true.

F. It was at this point that the disciples possibly began understanding another bold prophecy Jesus gave:

## II. "I Will Rebuild this Temple in 3 Days."

*John 2:19 NIV*

*Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."*

- A. Unbelieving Jews and even His disciples did not understand what He meant at the time.
  - 1. Soon, however, they would begin to know.
  - 2. He was not referring to the Jewish temple, but to His own body.
- B. In fact, they did destroy His body.
  - 1. He was killed in the one of the most brutal forms of capital punishment the world has ever known.
  - 2. But His crucifixion wasn't the end.
- C. He had predicted on many occasions that He would rise again.
  - 1. So much that all of His disciples & many religious rulers knew of it.
  - 2. This became a point of concern for the religious leaders.

*Matt 27:62-64 NIV*

*The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day.*

- D. The Roman guard posted in front of the tomb would have consisted of 16 soldiers.
  - 1. They would have alternated sleeping shifts (4 at a time).
  - 2. The penalty for sleeping out of shift was execution.

E. Yet, the next day, the tomb was EMPTY!

1. When the guards reported how the angel had rolled the stone away, they were bought off.
2. The lie: "His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep" (Mt 28:11-15).

F. Problems with this explanation:

1. Glaringly obvious: If you were asleep, how do you know what happened?
2. Everyone knew the penalty for sleeping on guard, death. Why are you still alive?

G. Roman & Religious leaders would have used every tool at their disposal to locate the corpse.

1. No biblical or historical account claims that His corpse was found.
2. And absolutely no theory claims the tomb wasn't empty.
3. Probably b/c it was in such a public place that multitudes saw it empty.

H. Eyewitness testimony is also powerful.

1. In all, over 515 individuals met the risen Christ over several weeks.

Michael Green, British Theologian:

*"The appearances of Jesus are as well-authenticated as anything in antiquity. There can be no rational doubt that they occurred."*

2. From the beginning, the 1<sup>st</sup> C. church based its whole argument on the fact that Jesus rose.

*1 Cor 15:3-8 NIV*

*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*

3. Rest assured, Paul's claims were examined carefully and no historical documentation exists to suggest that he was wrong.

I. The Clincher.

1. How could a "hoax" motive the 12 disciples to do what they went on to do?
2. Something amazing happened to change this rag-tag group of assorted deserters.
3. They go from hiding in the bushes to "turning the world upside down."

J. If it were all a big lie, why would so many die for it?

1. Peter – chained upright to a post, wallowing in filth, in total darkness for 9 months before he watched his wife killed and then he was crucified upside down.
2. Andrew – angered the governor of Patras, Greece by converting his wife to Christianity. He was crucified on an "X" cross (now called the St. Andrew's cross).
3. Thomas – known for doubting – denounced false religion until they attacked him, tortured him and thrust a spear through his side.
4. Matthew – pinned to the ground and beheaded (AD60).

5. Philip – at age 87, he was crucified upside down by piercing him through the thighs. Before dying, he prayed for his enemies like Jesus did.
6. Bartholomew (Nathaniel) – arrested, beaten, crucified in 68 AD.
7. Jude – martyred by a barrage of arrows on Mount Ararat.
8. James – stoned to death for preaching Jesus to the Jews.
9. Simon – sawn in half.
10. James (Jesus brother) – stoned in 66 AD.
11. Matthias – stoned & beheaded.
12. Mark – dragged to death in Alexandria.
13. Paul – beheaded in 66 by Nero.

K. My question? Why die for a lie?

1. What event would turn such humble men into such hero's of the faith?
2. The answer is found in the impassioned words of Peter:

*Acts 4:10-13 NIV*

*It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." 13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus*

3. They had ***been with Jesus.***
4. Once you have been with Jesus everything changes.

### III. Changing of the Times.

- a. Jesus prophesied that there would come a time when everything would change.

- i. Most of this is catalogued in Mt 24.
  - ii. Jesus' words here read like a copy of a modern newspaper.
- b. Many will claim to be the Messiah.
  - i. We remember Jim Jones who killed 900 in Guyana.
  - ii. David Koresh's followers in Waco, TX.
  - iii. Marshall Applewhite & Heaven's Gate followers in San Diego, CA.
- c. Wars & Rumors of War.
- d. Famines.
  - i. With all the modern technology and luxuries of 21<sup>st</sup> C., more people will go to be hungry tonight than ever before.
  - ii. 2/3 of the globe does not have enough food.
- e. Supreme: "All nations" will hate the name of Jesus?
  - i. More people have been killed for their faith in Jesus in recent years than in all of history combined.
  - ii. There was a time when this statement would have been unthinkable in the US.
  - iii. However, the actions of many people lead us to believe that they hate Jesus.
  - iv. When ... illegal to put a nativity on public property.
  - v. Silent Night is banned from schools.
  - vi. Students are not allowed to write about the Christian aspect of Christmas in school projects.
  - vii. Christmas tree is renamed the "holiday tree."

- viii. States are sued to force the legalization of homosexual marriage.
  - ix. Public libraries are forced to remove porn filters from their computers in the name of freedom of speech.
  - x. Boy Scouts are sued & loose funding b/c they won't accept homosexual scout leaders.
  - xi. "Under God" is taken out of the pledge.
  - xii. EVEN MANY IN US HATE "JESUS".
- f. The rest of the chapter goes on to prove Jesus' prophecies about the coming age true.
- i. But all of these predictions actually point to one more prophecy.
  - ii. It is, in fact, the only promise of Jesus left unfulfilled.

#### **IV. "I Will Come Again."**

- a. Considering all that Jesus was and is, what is the likelihood of Him lying?
  - i. He produced many miracles.
  - ii. He moved in power.
  - iii. He made many bold claims and all of them were fulfilled.
- b. All but one...

*John 14:2-3 NKJV*

*2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and*

*prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

1. He made a 2-fold prophecy here.
  2. Going...coming...
  3. ½ of this has already taken place.
- c. What has to happen for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ of this to prove true?
- i. Wars & threat of war, widespread famine, changing weather patterns, false religions, persecution of the church...
  - ii. We have seen (are seeing) all of these.
- d. SO you have a decision to make:
- i. Did Jesus Lie?
  - ii. Did he fulfill all prophecy perfectly except this one?
- e. Or is He TRULY COMING AGAIN SOON???

### **Conclusion:**

- A. See you can't be neutral on this "Jesus" issue.
- i. C.S. Lewis said it best, "Liar, Lunatic, Lord."
  - ii. If one prophecy was a lie, it's all a lie.
- B. I have accepted that He Is Lord!
1. Him being Lord is not enough, however.
  2. He is MY Lord!