

Series: “Cold Case Christianity” by J. Warner Wallace

Sermon: Were They Corroborated?

Primary Texts: Matthew 4:18-22; 26:67-68; 27 (emph. v. 45); Mark 1:1-4, 21-28; 15; Luke 4:31-37; 5:1-11; 23; 22:63-64; Acts 4:13; 13:7; John 18; 1 Peter 3:15

Book reference: chapter 12

Discussion guide:

- There are many who say that believing in the Bible is “childish” – why do you suppose that is?
- Do you believe in scripture? why or why not?
- What is corroborating evidence and why is it important to eyewitness accounts?
 - Share examples
- What is the difference between internal corroborating evidence and external?
- Read Mark 6:30-44 as if you’ve never read the story before including in the other Gospels.
 - What questions does this raise?
 - Wallace’s question: why was the crowd in the area in the first place?
- Read John 6:1-3
 - How does this answer Wallace’s question?
 - What details do you learn about this account that were not in Mark?
 - What questions does it raise?
 - Wallace’s questions:
 - Why does Jesus ask Philip about buying bread?
 - Why does Andrew get involved?
 - These two are rarely mentioned in the Gospels
 - Why does John specifically mention “barley loaves”?
 - Why to both Mark and John mention “much grass”?
- Read Luke 9:10-17
 - How does this answer Wallace’s question?
 - What details about the story do you learn that you didn’t know before?
 - What questions are raised?
- Should we expect every question to be answered? Why or why not?
- What is the importance of “extra-biblical” historians and historical writing?
 - Several are mentioned in the chapter and in the sermon – what jumped out at you and why?
 - Why is it significant that these authors were not Christians?
- What is the importance of archeological findings?
 - Several examples are mentioned in the chapter and in the sermon what jumped out at you and why?
- Why is a study like this important?
- Why is your own life in Christ the best evidence?
 - How do these two work together?

- Read Acts 4:13 – what does this tell you is the most valuable thing you can do for yourself and your witness?