

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

**Sermon:** Were They Accurate?

**Primary Texts:** Matthew 16:24-25; 2 Timothy 3:16 Isaiah 40:8; 55:10-11; 1 John 1:4; James 1:19

**Book reference:** Chapters 8 & 13 (emph on 13)

**Discussion guide:**

- Read Matthew 16:24-25
  - What does it mean to “deny self”?
  - How is this different for everyone but just as costly? Sight examples both Biblical and otherwise (perhaps the rich young ruler’s cost in Mark 10:21 vs. Zacchaeus’ cost in Luke 19:8 vs. Paul’s cost in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 vs. Jesus’ cost in Matthew 26:36-46)
  - Why should people trust Jesus with their “self” instead of themselves?
- If we are going to follow Jesus in this and give our lives away it is reasonable that we ask the question “Why should I trust the Gospels? How do we know that what we have now is what they wrote down then?”
- Summarize what the book and/or sermon said about the chain of custody.
  - How does the fact that the apostles’ disciples and their disciples and so on told the same truths about Jesus as we find in the Gospels show us that what we have now is what they wrote down then?
- Summarize what the book and/or sermon said about the meticulous and protective nature of copying scripture in those days.
  - Discuss the example of the Dead Sea Scroll’s copy of Isaiah.
  - How does this help to strengthen confidence that what we have now is what they wrote down then?
- Summarize what was said in the sermon about manuscript evidence.
  - How does New Testament manuscript evidence compare with other ancient documents like Homer’s “Illiad”?
  - How does this help to strengthen confidence that what we have now is what they wrote down then?
  - Can be found in Josh McDowell’s “Evidence Demands a Verdict”
- Summarize what was said in the sermon about “irrelevant details”.
  - What are some irrelevant (play no role in the story or character development) that were mentioned or that you know of in scripture?
  - How does this lend itself to the credibility of scripture?
  - Can be found in Timothy Keller’s “Reason for God”
- Summarize what was said in the sermon about scripture “brutal honesty”.
  - What are some things admitted in the Bible that you wouldn’t expect to find in a “made-up” religious work?
  - How does this lend itself to the credibility of scripture?
  - Can be found in Timothy Keller’s “Reason for God”
- Summarize what was said in the sermon about the “Bible accomplishing it’s purposes”
  - Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and Isaiah 55:10-11
    - Share some examples of how scripture has proven these passages true.

- What about the times people have mis-used scripture to justify wrongful acts?
- o How does this lend itself to the credibility of scripture?