

Faith | Part 4
August 11, 2019

- I. Brand new series ..."Forensic Faith"...
 - A. Quincy..!
 - B. CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
 1. CSI: New York
 2. CSI: Miami
 3. CSI: Gastonia
 - C. NCIS United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) is the primary law enforcement agency of the U.S. Department of the Navy.
 1. Los Angeles
 2. New Orleans
 - D. All these shows have in common...
 - a) application of scientific methods and techniques to the investigation of crime.
 - E. They have to accumulate evidence, clues...information, resources, people..
 1. To draw a conclusion...that they feel is true..!
 - a) That they 'believe' this is how this went down
 - b) They have "FAITH"...they are right!
 - F. HEAR THIS: In Christianity...
 1. When we use words like...faith & belief..
 - a) They do not take on different meanings just b/c they are used in a religious context
 2. HOWEVER: for some reason...they Become more associated with HOPE
 - (a) Instead of reason...rationale
 - G. HOPE...becomes the word associated with religious faith/belief
 1. But..we don't have to RELY ON HOPE...!
 - a) There is so much evidence and data proving the existence of Jesus Christ...
 - (a) The accuracy of the Bible
 - b) I believe this is why so many college students lose their faith
 - c) They were never given the evidence...the data
 - (1) They were just told...believe have faith...
 - (2) That's what this series is about..
 - H. Deciding whether or not Christ was real...died...resurrected...
 1. SLIDE: 4 Reasons
 1. It can't be true (intellectual hang-up)
 2. I don't want it to be true (mess my lifestyle)
 3. I'm not sure what is true (out of context)
 4. I believe it's true...now what? (believe/receive/live/share)
 - SLIDE:
 - 5 things needed to pull off a CONSPIRACY (Lee Harvey Oswald, Apollo, etc)

1. A very small number of conspirators
 2. Great communication
 3. A short time span
 4. Close friendships
 5. Low pressure
 2. 12...120...the 500...
 3. They are all part of the GREATEST CONSPIRACY in the history of the world.....!!!!
 4. Or...They were simply eyewitnesses who just reported what they saw...THE TRUTH!!!...
- I. Textual Criticism: (biblical criticism) the process of attempting to ascertain the original wording of a text.
- J. There are 1,565 copies dated on or around 3rd century
- K. That's 1100 years from its inception...!
- L. 5,843 copies...of the Greek New Testament..!!!
- M. 2nd century AD...
1. Less than 30 years from the 'original' to the copy..!
 2. Iliad: 1100 years...1565 copies
 3. NT: less than 30 years...5,483 copies...!!
 4. (read out loud) 1 Peter 3:15
Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.
- II. That questioned was answered in 1947..!
- A. SLIDE: 1947...Dead Sea Scrolls
1. Time Magazine: April 15, 1957
 - a) Found in Qumran: (Koom-ron)
- B. SLIDE:
The four Gospels..(Good News)
Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
- C. Slide:
- D. 3-Part Witness Test
1. Were they actually there?
 2. Can we verify what they say in some way?
 3. Do they have some reason to lie?
- III. We know from past few weeks...that we can trust the validity of the NT and the Gospels...
- A. We know they are accurate and match the original manuscripts
- B. However, regardless of the accuracy...
1. there still seems to be some misunderstanding to His death...
 2. DOUBT...questions...??

3. Let's retrace the steps of Jesus' final day & crucifixion

C. SLIDE:

1. Friday:
2. Last week: spent evenings in Bethany...with friends & family
3. Thursday:
4. The final supper with His disciples
 - a) Around midnight: After meal...head up to Gethsemane
 - (1) Jesus begins to pray...

D. Friday morning: 2AM Jesus is arrested in Gethsemane

1. Front gate: to Annas...interrogated and slapped
2. 3AM: Annas sends Jesus...current high priest: Caiaphas' house/palace
 - a) Preliminary trial
 - (1) Some members of the Sanhedrin are present
 - b) Temple: soldiers mock and beat Jesus
 - (1) Sanhedrin assemble at the temple
 - (a) OFFICIAL TRIAL: sunrise
 - c) Jesus testifies that He is the Son of God
 - (1) Led to Pilate
3. 6AM Fort Antonia where Pilate is staying
 - a) Pilate questions Jesus
 - (1) Learns that Jesus is from Galilee
 - (2) Send Him over to Herod's palace
4. 6:45AM: before Herod
 - a) Jesus will not speak
 - (1) Herod sends Him back to Pilate in a 'royal robe'
5. 7:30-8:30AM-Pilate tries several times to free Jesus
 - a) Jesus is continually beaten and sentenced to be CRUCIFIED!
 - b) The soldiers continue to mock, spit and hit Jesus
6. Jesus carries his cross outside the city walls...
 - a) Crucified at 9AM
 - b) By 3PM...He is dead

E. SLIDE:

1. Good Friday (12 hours of beatings and ultimately death)
2. Slide:

Luke 23:46

46 Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last.

IV. Today: the popular skeptical question...?

- A. Did Jesus really die?
- B. Tragically, there are deaths all the time and investigators and pathologists are commissioned with the task of figuring out what happened...
 1. Sometimes deaths are due to natural causes
 2. Others: by force, violence: murdered

3. DISCOVERING THE MEDICAL EVIDENCE

- a) Can determine whether someone fell down some stairs accidentally or there was an altercation and they were pushed
- C. Determine time of death by measuring the amount of potassium in your eyes...
 - (1) What a science?
- D. As Christ-followers...we believe the NT accounts...
 - 1. BIG ONE: Jesus died & then rose again...
 - a) Skeptic: theorize that disciples stole the body (however, too many witnesses to seeing Jesus after His death)
 - b) or...
 - c) Some skeptics state that Jesus was not completely dead on the cross...
- E. You can see this theory in Qur'an...written in 7th century
 - 1. Ahmadiya Muslims contend that Jesus fled to India
 - a) There's a shrine there today marking His "true" burial site
- F. These are known as a "Swoon Theory"
 - 1. Don't believe that Jesus died on the cross during crucifixion
 - a) (which really strengthens your 'no-resurrection' argument!
 - b) FAINTED: from exhaustion
 - c) Given a drug on the cross
 - (1) Resuscitated in tomb (cold air)
- G. The reason the tomb was empty was b/c He was still alive...!
 - 1. 1929: short story that
 - 2. Jesus fled to Egypt and fell in love with Isis
- H. Claim: that Pontius Pilate had been bribed to allow Jesus to be taken down from the cross before He was dead
 - 1. Apart from the NT Gospels...coupled with NT
 - a) What really happened?
 - b) Did Jesus fully die?...If so...how?
 - c) Medical proof?
 - 2. There's no body to perform an autopsy...!!!
 - a) He ascended into Heaven according to accounts
 - (1) Of all these theories...!
 - (2) Which is TRUE?...did He really die on cross...or was that some elaborate public scheme...?
 - 3. That's what we are going to research today...!!!

V. Slide:

How did Jesus die?

-Torture before the arrest

A. Right after the Final Supper...that Thursday evening...

1. Garden of Gethsemane: Mount of Olives

a) Jesus began to pray...knowing what was coming

B. IMPORTANT:

1. He knew spiritually and physically what was about to occur to Him...
 - a) His Body...His Mind...His Psyche
 - (1) Going through some serious psychological STRESS!
 2. We can't sleep and full of anxiety for:
 - a) Upcoming school test
 - b) Surgery
 - c) Job interview
 - d) First date
 - e) Confrontation
 - (1) IMAGINE WHAT MUST BE GOING THROUGH HIS MIND!
 3. Knowing that you are going to die in a few hours..!
- C. While He was praying...
- D. Slide:
Luke 22:44
44 He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.
- E. Translations: sweat drops of blood...
1. Skeptic:
 - a) Pretty creative writing there...!
(1) Is that some kind of dramatic "figurative language"?
 2. It's not figurative...it's LITERAL...!
- F. It's a medical condition called HEMATIDROSIS
1. Condition associated with a high degree of psychological stress
 - a) Acute fear & mental contemplations
- G. Severe anxiety causes the release of chemicals that break down the capillaries in the sweat glands...
1. small amount of bleeding into these glands and sweat comes out tinged with blood...
 - a) hematidrosis is a real condition.
 - b) Blood sweat can occur on any surface of the body.
 - c) The face and forehead are common locations.
- H. So glad, Luke the Physician recorded this...
1. For he understood...medical terminology of Greek medicine
 - a) Greek word for SWEAT: (idros) medical language...
(1) Medical condition alluded to by Aristotle as well
 - I. This condition also caused the skin to become increasingly fragile...
 1. So by the time Jesus was being tortured just hours later...
 2. His skin was very sensitive as a result of Hematidrosis
- J. Slide:
Luke 22:52-53
52 Then Jesus spoke to the leading priests, the captains of the Temple guard, and the elders who had come for him. "Am I some dangerous revolutionary," he asked, "that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? 53 Why didn't you

arrest me in the Temple? I was there every day. But this is your moment, the time when the power of darkness reigns.” (roughly 3AM)

- K. Jesus is saying: i've been there all week...I've done nothing to start revolts...
1. Walked into Jerusalem day after day willing
 2. And even now...He is giving Himself up willingly...
 - a) Who does that?
 3. Who doesn't even fight when they know they are about to be persecuted...beaten...?
 - a) What motivates a person to endure undeserved punishment?
 - (1) His love for us..!
- L. Slide:
How did Jesus die?
-Torture before the arrest
-Torture before the cross
- M. As Jesus went from trial to trial...He was beaten...!
1. Slide:
Luke 22:63-64
63 The guards in charge of Jesus began mocking and beating him. 64 They blindfolded him and said, "Prophecy to us! Who hit you that time?"
- N. Paints a clear picture of the scene...
1. He endured blows to the head while blind-folded
 - a) You've seen people after they get dotted...
 - (1) immediately ...there's swelling...redness...soreness
 - (a) Eye: swells shut
 - (2) Head is delicate and not made to absorb blows/hits..punches...
- O. Heavy robe that Herod put on Him...
1. Stick to blood drenched skin...
- P. Crown of thorns: up to an inch long
- a) Pierced His scalp...exposing tissue..which lead to more bleeding and pain
- Q. SPIT UPON:
- R. SLAPPED...
- S. What about the FLOGGING?...
1. Roman Flogging was extremely BRUTAL
 - a) 39 lashes...sometimes more
 2. SLIDE: flagrum
 - a) Whip of braided leather thongs...metal balls & sharp bone/glass woven in
 - (1) Balls: bruises
 - (2) Cut the flesh/rip it
 - (a) Result: skin and underlying muscles were shredded into bloody strips

- T. Sometimes: parts of the spine were exposed
- (1) 39 whips:
 - (2) Shoulders...
 - (3) Back...
 - (4) top of buttocks...
 - (5) back of legs
 - (a) RELENTLESS
2. Physician: on Roman floggings
- a) "The lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh"
- U. Certainly...some people died simply from the flogging even before they were put on the cross...
1. According to medical science..if the person did not die from this...
 - a) Result would be extenuating PAIN...
 - (1) HYPOVOLEMIC shock!
 - b) HYPO: low
 - c) VOL: volume
 - d) EMIC: blood
 - (1) Low Volume of blood
 - e) Person is suffering from losing large amounts of blood
 - (1) Heart races to try to pump blood that isn't there
 - (2) Blood pressure drops (fainting/collapsing)
 - (3) Kidneys stop producing urine to maintain what volume is left
 - (4) Person becomes thirsty as body craves fluids to replace the lost blood volume...
- V. Here's what we know medically at this point:
1. Jesus was in hypovolemic shock
 - a) As He staggered up the road to Calvary
 - (1) Carrying a 100lb beam
 - (a) Adding to His exhaustion and dehydration
 - b) We know from Gospels...Jesus collapsed
 2. And a soldier ordered Simon to carry the cross
 3. Recorded that Jesus said, "I thirst"
 4. Medically speaking:
 - a) At this point...
 - (1) Jesus was in serious-to-critical condition
 - (2) Even before one nail was driven into Him
- W. Slide:
- How did Jesus die?
- Torture before the arrest (sweatdrops of blood...psyche)
 - Torture before the cross (beatings...flogging)
 - Torture on the cross

X. Take your pick:

1. This is how the Bible tells the story...
2. This is how historians tell the story..
3. Jesus was beaten that day...but to this point...He was still alive and to be put on the cross...

Y. At the crucifixion:

1. At this point: laid down on the ground...
 - a) His hands would have been nailed to the beam He and Simon had carried
2. This beam was the horizontal beam of the cross (PATIBULUM)
 - a) Vertical beam remained permanently in the ground
 - b) Hands were then nailed to the beam...
 - (1) Not through the palms...through the wrist...
 - (a) Inch away
 - c) Through the palm: would've torn through the skin and fallen off the cross (wrists were considered part of the hand at that time in history)
3. Nails used by the Romans were 5-7 inches long...tapered to a sharp point

Z. Medical science: helps us

1. Nail would pass through the MEDIAN NERVE...(largest nerve going out of the hand)...be crushed by the nail
2. EXAMPLE: pain from banging your elbow..
 - a) Funny bone
3. Different nerve...ULNA NERVE
 - a) Now that you have a reference point:
 - (1) Imagine taking a pair of pliers to that nerve and squeezing
4. That sort of what Jesus felt...
 - a) Pain is absolutely unbearable...
 - (1) Beyond words to describe...
 - (a) So difficult to describe that invented a word for it
5. Excruciating
 - a) Latin: "out of the cross"

AA. New word to describe the intense anguish of that pain

1. From there...the horizontal bar is attached to the permanent vertical bar
 - a) Basically, hoist in the air and then
 - b) Feet are nailed to the cross
 - (1) Similar type of nerve in the feet was crushed as well

BB. THE IMAGE:

1. Jesus is upright...hanging on the cross...nailed by His Hands & Feet
2. Immediately...the arms are stretched...6 inches
 - a) Both shoulders would dislocate
 - b) Which fulfilled Psalm 22
 - (1) 100's of year prophesied

(a) "My bones are out of joint"

- CC. Torture...beating..flogging...nails...shoulders out..
1. Out of all this torture...from a medical standpoint...
 - a) WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF DEATH?
- DD. According to the medical field...
1. Asphyxiation: deprived of oxygen
- EE.Stress...muscles & diaphragm: locks the chest into an "inhaled" position
1. In order to exhale
 - a) Push up by your feet
 - b) Eases your muscles for a moment
 - (1) Nail in foot tear through and lock up tarsal bones
 2. After the exhale:
 - a) Push up again...remember their back...shoulders are covered in blood and torn flesh
 - b) Repeat...over and over until complete exhaustion
 - c) No longer able to push up:
 - (1) No longer able to breathe
- FF.Breathing slows: respiratory acidosis
1. Carbon dioxide in the blood is dissolved into carbonic acid...
 - a) Causing the acidity of the blood to increase
 2. Leads to irregular heartbeat
 - a) When your heart does this...you know you are about to die
 - (1) Jesus knew He was at His last breath
 3. "Lord, into Your Hands I commit my spirit, it is finished"
 - a) Dies of cardiac arrest...
 4. Another cause adding to cardiac arrest...would be the hypovolemic shock He encountered during the flogging...
 - a) That shock causes the heart to beat rapidly...!
 - (1) Which would lead to heart failure
 - (2) Results in a collection of fluid in the membrane of the heart
 - (a) Pericardial Effusion
 - (3) Fluid around lungs: Pleural Effusion
- GG. This is important medical science...let's read..

HH. Slide:

John 19:31-34

31 It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. 33 But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. 34 One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out.

II. The soldier even observing that Jesus was dead...made sure by thrusting a spear into His Side..

1. Apparently the right side...
 - a) Went through the lung and then through the heart
2. Spear was pulled out...
 - a) The FLUID from the pericardial effusion & the pleural effusion came out...and was witnessed...
3. John had no idea why he saw water & blood...but he still reported what he saw...
 - a) It would've been so easy to skip that part of his testimony

JJ. REMEMBER: We have soldiers here...trained assassins..

1. They know how to kill and when someone is dead...
2. These are not the kind of men that would make the mistake of taking a man down off the cross when he was still living...
 - a) If he made that mistake...he was to be sentenced to death, himself

KK. Why do some people choose not to believe that Jesus was actually killed?

1. Because they can't explain the resurrection & if you can explain away the death...
2. you don't have to deal with the resurrection?

LL. There's a problem with that theory though..?

MM. You don't believe me...listen to the Journal of the American Medical Association

1. Slide:

"Clearly, the weight of the historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound to his side was inflicted...Accordingly, interpretations based on the assumption that Jesus did not die on the cross appear to be at odds with modern medical knowledge."
-Dr. William D. Edwards (Journal of the American Medical Association)
2. Those that want to explain away the resurrection by claiming that Jesus somehow survived:
 - a) Flogging: 39 lashes
 - b) Beating...punching...
 - c) Shoulders...
 - d) Nails...
 - (1) Somehow escaped after enduring all that torture...
3. Imagine PHYSICALLY...what He would have looked like...!!
 - a) Both shoulders out
 - b) Cuts, bruises all over His Face
 - c) Back from shoulders to his thighs covered with ripped flesh
 - (1) 5-7" nails...both wrists and feet???
 - d) Oh yea:...spear to the side...!!!
4. It simply doesn't add up..!

VI. I think I know what it is...

- A. Because i've been there...!
1. Some don't believe it...b/c they just can't imagine someone loving them that much!
 - a) Who would willingly let all this happen to them?
 - (1) Not put up a fight..
 - b) Go through this much ANGUISH, TORTURE...for a people that don't appreciate it...pretend like they don't see it...don't have the COURAGE to acknowledge it..
 - (1) Don't love You back..
 - c) Who would do this for someone who only cares about their own agenda...their own problems...their own lives...
 - d) What was Jesus' MOTIVATION?..
 - (1) Simple: love..unconditional love!
 - e) For you and for me...and
 - (1) -just b/c you don't think someone could love you that much...doesn't mean it's not true!
 - (2) By now...
 - (3) you know you can BELIEVE the story...now won't you RECEIVE Him..!!!!