

Faith | Part 5
August 18, 2019

- I. Brand new series ..."Forensic Faith"...
 - A. CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
 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!
 - c) associated with HOPE
 - d) Instead of reason...rationale
 - B. 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)
- II. Textual Criticism: (biblical criticism) the process of attempting to ascertain the original wording of a text.
 - A. There are 1,565 copies dated on or around 3rd century
 - B. That's 1100 years from its inception...!
 - C. 5,843 copies...of the Greek New Testament...!!!
 - D. 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...!!
 - a) Death on the cross!
 - b) Breathing slows: respiratory acidosis
 4. Carbon dioxide in the blood is dissolved into carbonic acid...
 - a) Causing the acidity of the blood to increase
 5. Leads to irregular heartbeat
 - a) Dies of cardiac arrest...
 6. Another cause adding to cardiac arrest...would be the hypovolemic shock He encountered during the flogging...
 - a) respiratory acidosis
 - b) 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
 7. BEATEN: 39 LASHES
 - a) FLOGGED

- b) PUNCHED
- c) NAILED
- d) SUFFOCATION
- e) CARDIAC ARREST

E. 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?

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)

I. From a medical standpoint

A. FACT: Jesus did die 'completely' on the cross...not much of an argument!

- 1. Why do people choose to believe that He didn't...
 - a) Hard for them to believe that someone LOVES them that much

B. How IN THIS WORLD WE EXIST IN?...can i be loved that much?

- 1. This world is full of:
- 2. Pain...tragedy
- 3. Conflict...illness...DEATH...
- 4. We all wonder why it's this way...!!!
 - a) What's meaning behind all this...?
- 5. It's also a world of CONFUSION:
 - a) The enemy wants it that way
 - (1) That's why we have so many 'religious choices'
 - (2) Believe there's no God...
 - (3) believe we can't comprehend it...
 - (a) Believe there's many gods...!
 - b) Throughout HISTORY:
 - (1) We've had:
 - (2) Spiritual leaders...gurus
 - (3) Messiahs...prophets...
 - (a) Muhammad...Plato
 - (b) Buddha...Gandhi
 - (c) Krishna...Joseph Smith
 - (d) Shirley MacLaine
 - (e) Oh yea...a man named JESUS
- 6. All claiming to be able to help us get through this crazy...sick world

C. Only Jesus offers that...but more..!

- 1. We are mortals: we need LOVE

- a) No other claim will tell you of a God who so in LOVE with you that He left Heaven to come down here
 - (1) Die for you and me..
 - (2) so we could eventually live with Him forever...!
 - 2. We need GRACE
 - a) That unconditional acceptance
 - (1) We are loved just as we are!
 - (a) His death provided the forgiveness to make us pure enough to live with Him forever
 - 3. We need a RELATIONSHIP
 - a) No other religion has a God that longs to relate to us PERSONALLY
 - 4. BRINGS US TO WHERE WE STARTED...it's so hard to imagine!!!!
 - 5. No other religion can speak of a God who loves us so much that He was willing to endure the cross...in order for us to know Him personally...
 - a) Let's be HONEST:
 - D. In order to have this personal relationship...in order to have ETERNAL LIFE
 - 1. This resurrection thing better be true
 - a) Key to all that it means to be a Christ-follower
 - 2. All these promises mean NOTHING: unless it actually occurred
 - E. Christianity will be just another cute 'belief'...or hope
 - F. SLIDE:
 - 1 Corinthians 15:16-17
 - 16 And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.
 - 1. Just as Paul wrote:
 - a) Unless Jesus died...rose from the grave...and DEFEATED DEATH...
 - b) If that's true...then through Him..we can do the same thing!
 - G. Christianity is WORTHLESS...if the resurrection was not a REAL EVENT
 - 1. That actually happened at a given place and given time in history!
- II. As we studied these past few weeks...
- A. We begin to see and understand that NO RELIGION comes close to giving us the EVIDENCE needed to back up this claim...
 - 1. The HISTORICAL ACCURACY of Christianity is in a class of its own..!
 - B. From the transcribed manuscripts and the massive number of them and their ACCURACY...
 - 1. To the non-biblical witness accounts...some trying to explain away what Jesus did on the cross and being seen again...
 - 2. The historical evidence is overwhelming...
 - C. Listen to what some intelligent and respected scholars in the field of 'religions' and 'history'

- D. Philosopher Stephen Davis, Analytic Theology, Christian Thought, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion
- E. "It seems clear-indeed, that if the resurrection of Jesus actually occurred, then it is a fact about the past as it occurred. And if the word history is understood as the events that occurred in the real past and that historians attempt to discover, then it follows that the resurrection of Jesus was an event in history."
- F. William Lane Craig: (30 books) analytic philosopher
- G. The hypothesis of the resurrection is both verifiable and falsifiable: verifiable through proving the historicity of the empty tomb, the appearances, and the origin of the Christian Way; falsifiable by either disproving the above or providing naturalistic explanations of them. In fact, I should go so far as to say that there is not a single event in the resurrection narratives that is not in principle historically verifiable or falsifiable.
 - 1. Basically: the removal of the large stone...
 - 2. the empty tomb...
 - 3. the linen cloth...
 - 4. the appearances of Jesus...
 - a) Are merely ideas in the MINDS of the apostles...and several hundred others who interacted or saw Jesus after His Death...
 - b) or events in History

III. Let's look at this in the mind theory:

- A. States that the disciples just think they saw Jesus...but it was just a hallucination
 - 1. This one is fun:
 - 2. Look at this picture: SLIDE: illusion
- B. Which CENTER dot is bigger...left or right?
 - 1. I say right one...!
 - 2. This is known as an ILLUSION: I would be wrong...the dots are actually the same size..!
 - a) If you measure them...they are the same
 - 3. We could get everyone in the room to measure...they are the same
- C. Now: if you still insist that the one on the right is bigger...!!
 - 1. You are experiencing a DELUSION...!!
- D. NEVERTHELESS: if you haven't been to bed in 4 days...and have sleep deprivation or you are under the influence of a drug...
 - 1. And you see 17 pink triangles on the screen...
 - a) That's what we call a HALLUCINATION!
 - (1) You are SEEING SOMETHING that is NOT there!
- E. What people try to say is that the WITNESSES of Jesus' resurrection were sincere in believing that they saw Him...
- F. REASON...for this explanation...they know the authenticity of the NT...they know it reads exactly what was written some 2K years ago...

1. So they state that the disciples were experiencing a Hallucination...that convinced them that they were seeing something that wasn't actually there...
- G. Problem #1: can't share hallucinations...
 1. Multiple accounts and multiple instances
- H. Problem #2: Hallucinations are rare
 1. Caused by sleep deprivation and/or drugs
 - a) Chances are you don't know anyone who has experienced a hallucination that wasn't caused by one or both of these things
- I. Problem #3: would a hallucination exist over the course of weeks!
 1. Different people...
 2. from different places...
 3. different temperaments
 4. all experiencing the EXACT SAME hallucination!!!
- J. Not to mention: Jesus' half brother James...who didn't believe in Jesus until He saw Him resurrected...
 1. He wasn't predisposed to WANTING TO SEE Him alive again..!
- IV. We have the historical data...
 - A. its ACCURACY...
 - B. we have some common sense...
 - C. LOGIC...
 - D. Let's take the data and compare it to the place/culture/customs of that time in history and look at the events surrounding the RESURRECTION
- V. Start here...What about the tomb itself?
 - A. We know from all 4 Gospels that Jesus' Body was placed in a tomb
 1. Cut into rock...
 2. with a large stone rolled against the entrance
 - a) Know: tomb was new and never been used...
 - b) belong to a man named Joseph
 - B. SLIDE:

Matthew 27:57-60

57 As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus, 58 went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. 59 Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth. 60 He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left.
 - C. Historically with the culture...this adds up
 1. A body of a criminal would defile the bodies of other family members resting in the tomb...so Joseph could not just place the body in any tomb...
 - a) Condemned criminal's body and could not 'rest' with other bodies
 - D. SLIDE:

1. Tomb: carved into stone
 - a) Tomb is closed by covering the opening with a disk-shaped stone weighing close to 2 tons..4,000 lbs...
 2. Tomb had a groove/trough cut into the rock in front of the door...like a track
 - a) Deepest in the front of the tomb & angled UPWARD
 3. Stone was placed...highest part of the groove/track
 - a) Block used to keep it from falling...
 - (a) Block removed..stone rolled into place
 - (b) Lodge itself in front of the tomb
 - b) Getting out from the inside is impossible...
 - (1) Nothing to grip...hold on to
- E. Tomb...NOW...What do we know about the burial?
1. Burial is not surrounded by adornment/embellishment
 - a) Simple and straight-forward
 2. No conflicting tradition about the burial story
 - a) No early documents that refute the Gospel accounts
 3. No one ignored His burial
 - a) Jewish authorities were on high alert
 - (1) Been trying to get rid of Him..make sure He is buried
 4. (Ever had to ask someone to leave...or send your kids to bed...you watch/observe...MAKE SURE...
 5. Who invents a story about Joseph of Arimathea
 - a) Why would early Christians make him a hero
 - (1) Joseph was a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin
 - (a) The high court that sentenced Jesus to death
- F. Moreover:
1. The NT is clear that the burial of Jesus followed the customs of the Jews
 - a) Jesus was taken down from the cross...
 - b) covered with a sheet
 - c) The Jews were strict about not letting a body remain all night upon the cross
 - (1) In fact, non-biblical writings tell us that before 70AD
 - (a) Jewish custom was to have the crucified bodies buried before sunset..
 2. The Babylonian Talmud, the
 3. Scripture commentaries of the Jews,
 4. primary source of Jewish religious law
 - a) "If he is left [hanging] overnight, a negative command is thereby transgressed. For it is written, his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt surely bury him the same day for he is hanged [because of] a curse against God."
 - b) The body was immediately transported to the place of burial—

G. Slide:

John 19:39-40

39 With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. 40 Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth.

1. Again...according to 'The Babylonian Talmud'
2. Washing of the body was so important to proper burial...
 - a) Could not be done alone
 - b) Dead could not be moved by fewer than 2 persons
 - c) Corpse laid on a board...
 - (1) feet towards the door
 - d) Covered clean sheet
 - (1) Washed with warm water...head to foot
 - (2) Mouth is covered...no water gets in
 - e) Washing so thorough...
 - (1) That nails were cleaned and cut..special pin
 - (2) Hair specially arranged
3. As mentioned in John 19
 - a) Aromatic spices are used
 - (1) 75-100 lbs of spices
 - (2) Fragments of aromatic wood, pounded into dust
 - (a) Known as aloes
 - (b) Mixed with myrrh...

H. Body then wrapped with a linen cloth (sewn together by women...no knots)

- (1) "Disentangled of the cares of this life"
- b) Could not be buried with less than 3 garments...
- c) Starting at the feet
 - (1) Body is wrapped with linen cloth
 - (a) With spices and gummy myrrh mixed in at the folds
 - (2) Wrap the torso to the armpits...
 - (3) Put arms outside of the cloth...and then wrap up to the neck
 - (4) A separate cloth was used for the head
- d) Final encasement could weigh as much as 120lbs.

I. The body is then placed in the tomb..by Joseph

1. Slide:

Matthew 27:60

60 He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left.

2. Slide:

- (1) stone is highest part of track...
- (2) remove block/wedge and

- b) Sloped downward into the entrance
 - c) Easy to roll into place...
 - (1) Impossible to move from inside 4K lbs
 - (2) Imagine trying to move stone...
 - (a) Push it back up the groove/track
 - 3. SLIDE: pic of arrow showing stone having to go up hill
 - a) Really messes up the theory of disciples coming by and trying to steal Jesus' Body...
 - J. Not only the inability to push 4K lbs up a hill with minimal grip
- VI. There were Roman guards...and the tomb was "SEALED"
 - 1. Remember:
 - a) Jesus had caused some political problems for both the Jews and the Romans...
 - (1) Both parties needed to make sure He was gone for good
 - 2. After the crucifixion:
 - a) Chief priests and Pharisees said to Pilate...
 - b) We remember hearing "this Deceiver"...this Jesus said that after 3 days...
 - c) "I will rise from the dead!"...
 - 3. Slide:

Matthew 27:64-66

64 So we request that you seal the tomb until the third day. This will prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he was raised from the dead! If that happens, we'll be worse off than we were at first."

65 Pilate replied, "Take guards and secure it the best you can." 66 So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it.
- B. First: it was SEALED:
 - a) Only be sealed in the presence of Roman guards
 - b) To keep anyone from tampering with grave
2. The tomb was inspected and
 - a) a cord was stretched across the rock...
 - b) and fastened at either end and sealed with clay!
 - c) Finally, the clay packs were stamped with the official signet of the Roman governor
3. Considered a mode of authenticity...meaning real/genuine
 - a) Roman Seal: anyone tampering with the tomb would face the wrath of the Roman Empire
- VII. Finally: The Roman Guards
 - 1. May have seen some pic of 2 dudes with spears...
 - a) That was not truth or reality...
 - 2. A lot of recordings of the Roman army and their protocols...
 - 3. Roman Guard Unit:

- a) Each man trained to protect 6 feet of ground
- 4. 16 men in a square of 4 on each side were trained to protect 36 yards and could stand against an entire battalion (500-800) soldiers
- B. PYLONS:
 - 1. 4 men were placed immediately in front of what they were to protect.
 - 2. The other 12 would sleep in a semi-circle in front of them with their heads pointing in.
 - 3. To steal what these guards were protecting,
 - a) thieves would first have to walk over the guards who were asleep.
 - (1) Every four hours, another unit of four guards was awakened, rotate around the clock...
 - 4. So...the theory that disciples...snuck up on some dozen or so guards and then ROLLED the stone (4K) up a slope is challenging to believe at best...
 - a) LITERALLY: rolled UP!
 - 5. Slide:
 - roll: (Greek)-kulio
 - 6. Slide:
 - roll: (Greek)-kulio
 - up/upward: (Greek)-ana (PREPOSITION)
 - "anakulio": to 'roll' something 'up' a slope or an incline
 - 7. The stone was up a slope or incline
- C. Luke also used the root word: KULIO
 - 1. Slide:
 - Luke 24:2
 - 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.
 - 2. But added the preposition "apo"
 - 3. Slide:
 - Luke's account:
 - "apo"-separation from or distance from (preposition)
 - "apokulio": to roll one object from another so that it is 'separated some distance from it'
 - 4. Then finally in John's account of the stone...
- D. Slide:
 - John 20:1
 - 1 Early on Sunday morning, On the first day of the week. while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.
- E. Slide:
 - "airo"- to pick something up and carry it away

bottom line: the massive stone (1.5-2.0 tons) was moved not just from the entrance but the entire tomb...looking as if it had been picked up and carried away

- F. More evidence with having women be the first to see the tomb...
 - 1. You wouldn't write that at this time in history if you wanted the story to be credible/believable...but they wrote what they saw..!
 - 2. I wish we had time to go over every detail of evidence...
- VIII. We've barely scratched the surface...BROAD strokes..
- A. Fact after fact...data...
- B. Proof...records...
- C. first-hand accounts...
- D. biblical & non-biblical..
 - 1. Skeptics have tried to destroy this story for over 2000 years and yet here we are today...still swimming in more and more evidence...
 - 2. It is simply suppressed by the enemy...but the
- IX. TRUTH is the TRUTH..whether we believe it not...!
 - 1. Maybe this exercise will help us understand how TRUTH works..!
- X. BAND COME OUT: (get ready, but don't play until BOWING OF HEADS)
- XI. EXAMPLE:
 - A. Bowl of Gummy bears...How many in the bowl?
 - 1. Which guess was closest?
 - 2. Agree that 222 is closest?...
 - a) Agree that the number of gummy bears is simply an OBJECTIVE FACT...not my opinion
 - B. Starburst Candy:
 - 1. Which flavor is right?
 - a) Everyone has their own preference (4 choices)
 - C. That is correct!...the right flavor has to do with opinion/preference
 - 1. SUBJECTIVE...not OBJECTIVE FACT!
- XII. When someone makes religious claims...
 - A. Like the number of gummy bears in a bowl...
 - 1. Is that a personal opinion...like the starburst
 - B. Religious claims are like starbursts...!
 - C. Everyone has their preference/choice
 - D. Why do we think that way?...
- XIII. Christianity:
 - A. Based on OBJECTIVE..HISTORICAL...FACT
 - 1. The resurrection of Jesus
 - B. Some may reject the 'historical resurrection' of Jesus...
 - 1. It can't be 'true for you...but not for me'
 - a) Tomb was either EMPTY or OCCUPIED
 - C. it's not a personal preference...it's is FACT..!
 - 1. The tomb was empty that 1st Easter morning...

2. Historical evidence is too strong...!

3. Quite simply: all the authorities had to do was produce a body..!

XIV. Think about this:

A. thousands of early converts to Christianity—made so through the preaching of the resurrection—were all Jewish, either who lived in Jerusalem or

1. visited there.

2. In becoming a follower of Christ,

a) they were accepting a revolutionary teaching that could have been easily disproved by a simple five-minute walk to a garden just beyond the city walls.

b) Rather than disbelieving the resurrection, they eagerly spread the message far and wide.

c) Each convert was a proof of the empty tomb,

(1) as opponents could have stopped Christianity dead in its tracks by simply displaying the body of Jesus.

B. Dr. Paul Maier: Historian: Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University

1. If all the evidence is weighed carefully and fairly, it is indeed justifiable, according to the canons of historical research, to conclude that the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, in which Jesus was buried, was actually empty on the morning of the first Easter. And no shred of evidence has yet been discovered in literary sources, epigraphy, or archaeology that would disprove this statement.