



30 Sept 2018

Who is Jesus?

Talking through the message during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. You can access the message and other resources at occweb.org/sermons/series/sure/

Questions – Talking Points

In **1 Peter 3:15** we're told to be prepared to share with others why it is we believe in Jesus and the gospel stories.

- How confident are you in sharing why you believe what you believe?
- What steps are you taking to be able to share more confidently?

When looking at the *lie* hypothesis, Mike gave 4 considerations why it would be going against the evidence to conclude the story was a lie:

1. What possible motive would the disciples have had to lie?
 2. Early critics never accused disciples of being insincere. They never accused them of making it up or denied His miracles.
 3. How could they have pulled off a lie of this magnitude?
 4. There aren't any records of any of the early followers cracking under pressure to reveal some secret lie.
- Talk about these points. What strikes you the most?

When considering the possibility of the Gospels as *legend*, Mike gave 6 considerations against this conclusion:

1. 1st century Palestinian Judaism was not a conducive environment for legend making.
 2. If a 1st century Palestinian Jew made up a legend, it wouldn't have sounded like the Gospels.
 3. There is not enough time to develop a legend.
 4. The Gospels claim to write history and they read like history.
 5. The Gospels give evidence of being written not long after Jesus's life.
 6. The Gospels give every indication of being based on eyewitness accounts. i.e. superfluous, unexplained & counterproductive details.
- What stops you from rejecting the *lie* and the *legend* hypothesis?
 - If what the gospels says about Jesus is true... what is your response? What stops you from responding with all your heart and life? What would that look like for you?

Next Steps:

- Plan on meeting with 2-4 others to talk about these questions.
- Any questions that you have that arise from this, or other messages in this series, send them to questions@occweb.org

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