



"WHO ARE THOSE GUYS"

10/12/2014

Who were _____?

Why should _____ was legit?

What about all the _____ in the gospels?

_____ – An eyewitness

_____ – An eyewitness

_____ – A friend of Peter

_____ – An investigator

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ²just as those who **from the beginning** were eyewitnesses...
Luke 1:1-2a (ESV)

²¹ "Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²²**beginning from** John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." Acts 1:21-23 (NIV)

The gospels in your Bible were written _____ (40-60 yrs after Jesus' death)

Numerous _____ were still available & traveling around.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were recognized as _____ almost immediately.

"In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth...If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Jesus – John 18:37; 8:31-32

for further reading: *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*, by F.F. Bruce
for deeper digging: *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*, by Richard Bauckham



STUDY QUESTIONS

Use these questions in your community group or personal study time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

We have been told, "You can't believe the Bible's stories about Jesus. They are full of contradictions and things we just know couldn't happen." Yet here we are reading them again. What's with all this persistence?

We've said that we will follow the trail of evidence about what we believe. Every person owes it to themselves to explore the evidence first hand. There is no honor or wisdom in just accepting what someone else tells us to believe about Jesus or the gospels.

We start with the writers of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Who were these guys? Why did early Christians consider them to be powerful eyewitness authorities?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Describe something that's been passed down to you through your family (a particular item, not a trait). What is your attitude toward it?
- What do you think of the phrase: "God said it; I believe it; that settles it"?
 - How do you think your skeptical friends would respond to that thought?
 - Why is it important to understand the way God gave his word?
- Read Acts 1:1-3 & 21-22 together.**
 - What does that tell you about Luke's criteria, and the early disciples' criteria of what information could be trusted?
 - What did they believe "from the beginning?"
- Read Jesus' interaction with Pilate – John 18:28-37 – together.**
 - What does that tell you about why Jesus came?
 - How does this conversation, and what we read in Acts 1, relate to each other?
- In the message, Dwain said "Some people to want to believe that the gospel writers were pen names of people who wrote centuries after the fact. Is that possible? Maybe... but its not probable at all."
 - What do you make of that reasoning?
 - Does any part of you believe that the gospels were not an eye witness account?
- How can the people in the group support you, in prayer, with in their praying as we consider together what to believe from Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John?

MOVING FORWARD

We have good reason to believe Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – and therefore good reason to believe Jesus said and did what they say he did. That means if you're a Christian, there is no reason to hang your head. Jesus doesn't teach us to be arrogant or unthinking, which means we can join the conversation without fear and ask, "What actually happened?"

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (NIV)

LUKE 1:1-2; ACTS 1:21-22