



Neighborly Apologetics

The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection- Part 1

The Royal Law

Love your neighbor

Love a steadfast, sacrificial zeal that seeks the true good of another

Neighbor 'plosion' - one who lives near

a steadfast, sacrificial zeal that seeks the true good of the one who **providentially** lives near you



The Royal Law
Love your neighbor

God has entrusted the primary work
of the Kingdom to the common
Christian family

This is ground zero in the
work of the Kingdom

We will build real relationships
with those providentially in our Jerusalem,
through prayer and action,
with grace and wisdom and truth,
being attractively winsome,
tearing down walls, building up trust,
doing the work of the Kingdom.

memory verse 1

“...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to **make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

-1 Peter 3:15

“Apologia”

memory verse 2

The Lord's servant must **gently** instruct his opponents...“**in the hope that God will grant them repentance** leading them to a knowledge of the **truth**, and that they will **come to their senses** and escape from the **trap of the devil**, who has taken them **captive** to do his will.”

-2 Timothy 2:24-26

God is the one who will be granting them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, not us

memory verse 3

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. **Let your speech always be with grace**, as though **seasoned with salt**, so that you **might know how to respond to each person**.

-Colossians 4:5-6

Godly wisdom is not primarily for yourself, but for the shalom of another
wisdom and discernment

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. **Let your speech always be with grace**, as though **seasoned with salt**, so that you might know how to respond to each person. -Colossians 4:5-6

wisdom and discernment

relationships

believer

non-believer

biblical worldview

no biblical worldview

open to God

closed to God

Academic Apologetics

vs.

Neighborly Apologetics

↑
we need this

↑
to do this

but we can't lead with this

we must lead with significant relationships

**Neighborly Apologetic
Categories:**

- 1. Evil and Suffering*
 - 2. Absolute Truth and Relativism*
 - 3. “Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism*
 - 4. Faith and Reason*
 - 5. Free Will and Sovereignty*
 - 6. God’s Existence and Nature*
 - 7. Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell*
 - 8. Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past*
 - 9. The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection*
 - 10. Miracles*
 - 11. Science and Evolution*
 - 12. The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions”*
- Plus: Burning Issues of our Day*



Neighborly Apologetics

9. The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection - Part 1

Three Great Questions

Three Great Truths

“Does God exist?”

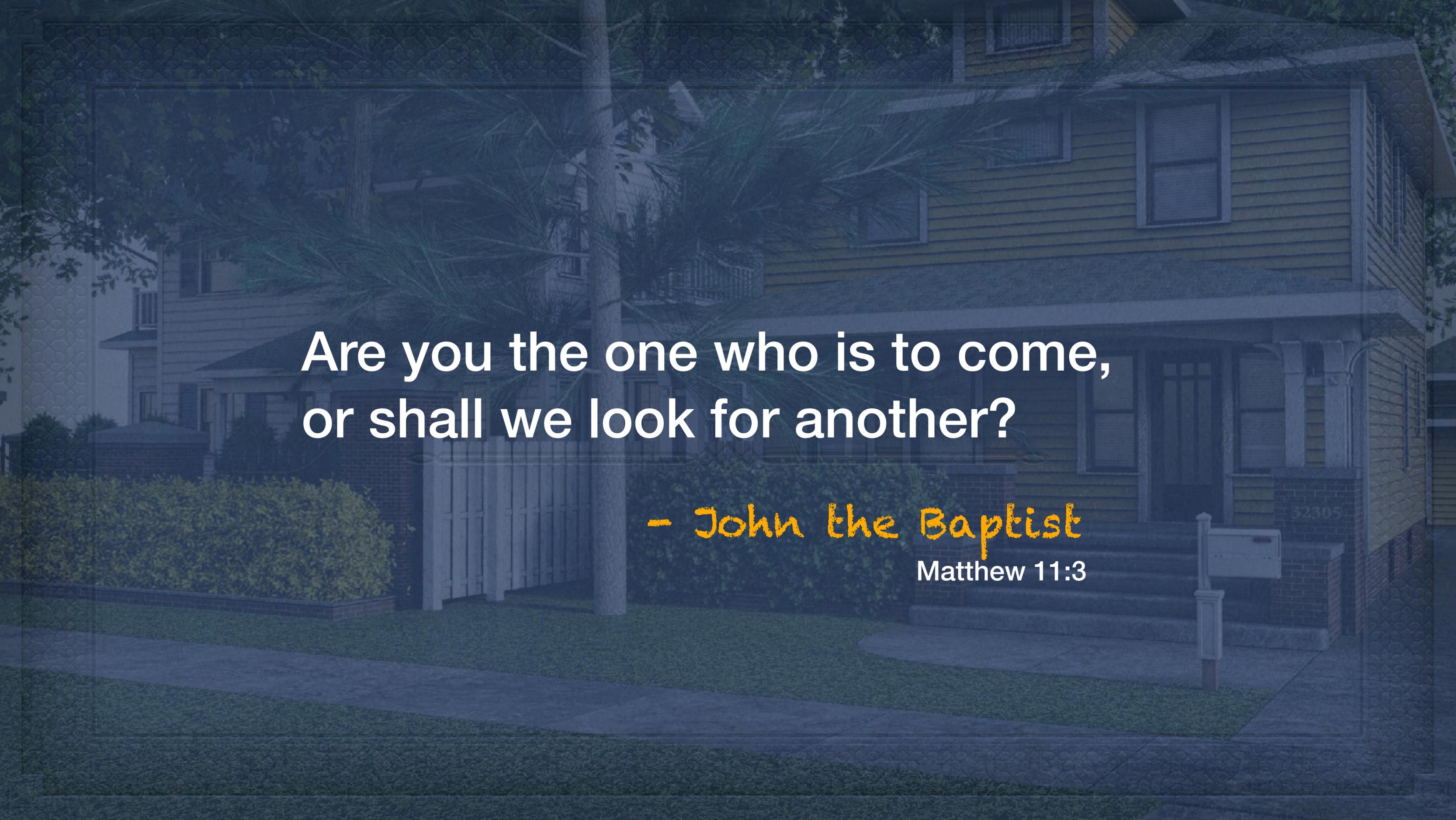
He is there

“Is the Bible reliable?”

He is not silent

“Who is Jesus?”

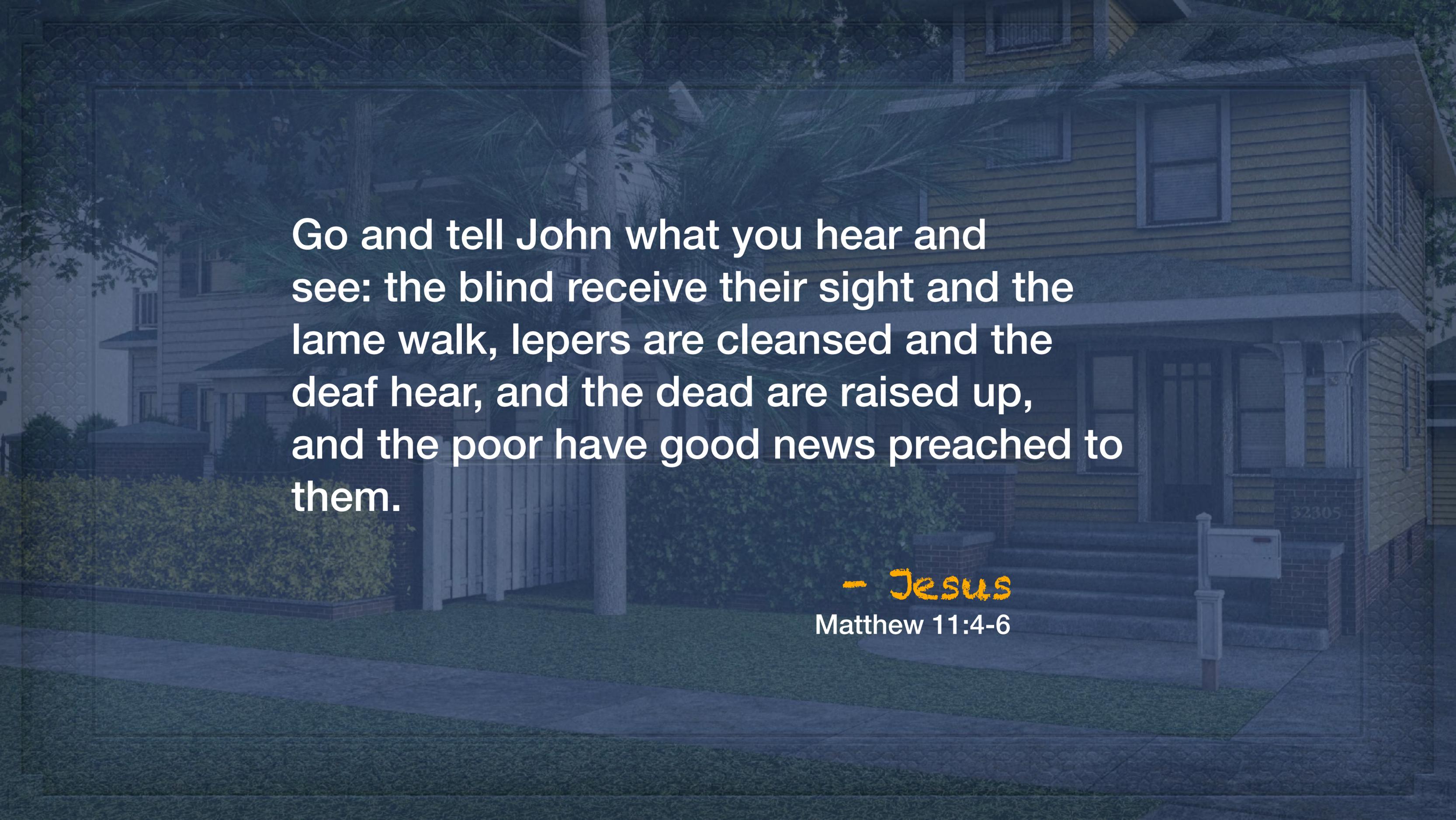
Jesus



Are you the one who is to come,
or shall we look for another?

- John the Baptist

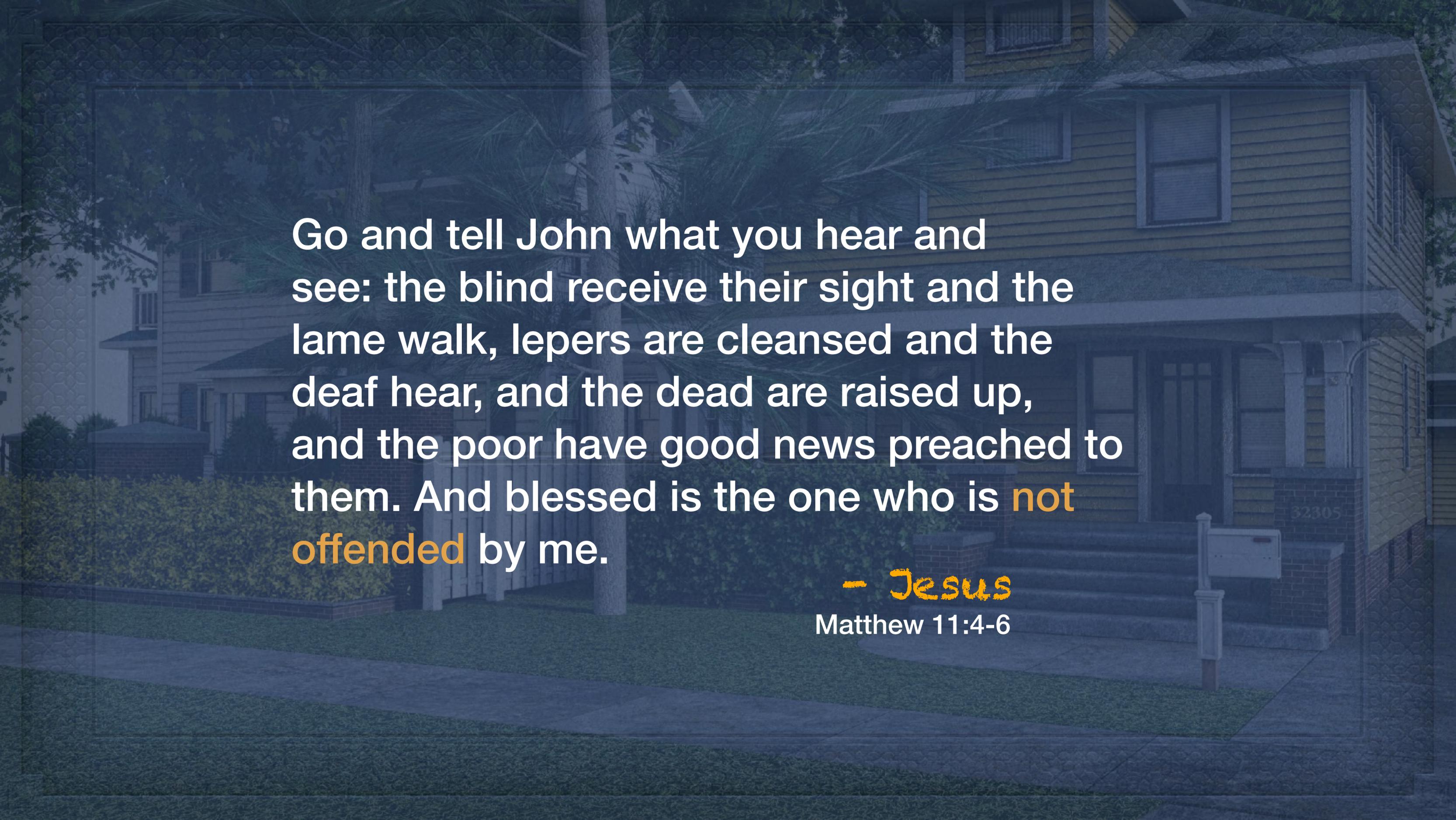
Matthew 11:3



Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

— Jesus

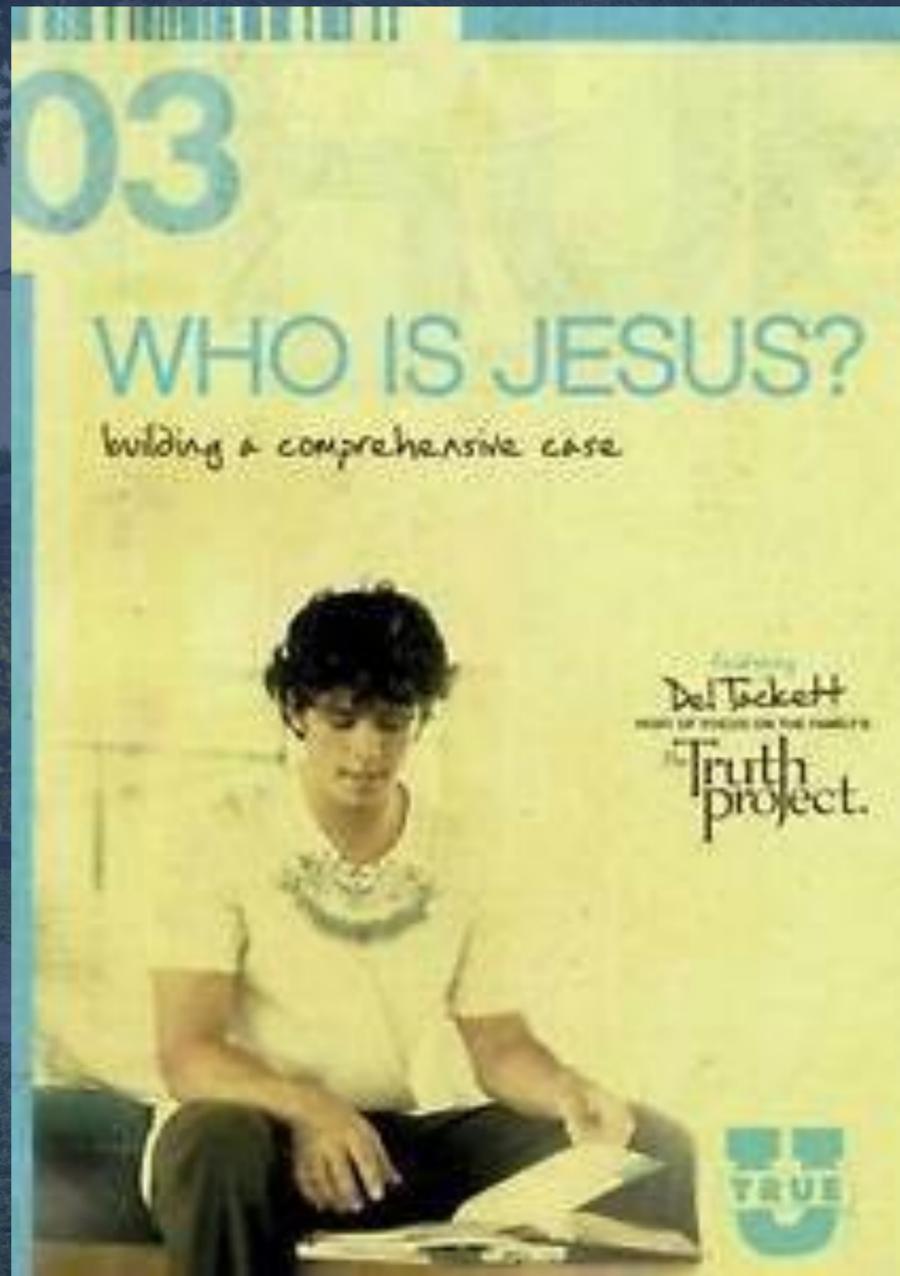
Matthew 11:4-6



Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is **not offended** by me.

— Jesus

Matthew 11:4-6



Who is Jesus?

Who is Jesus?

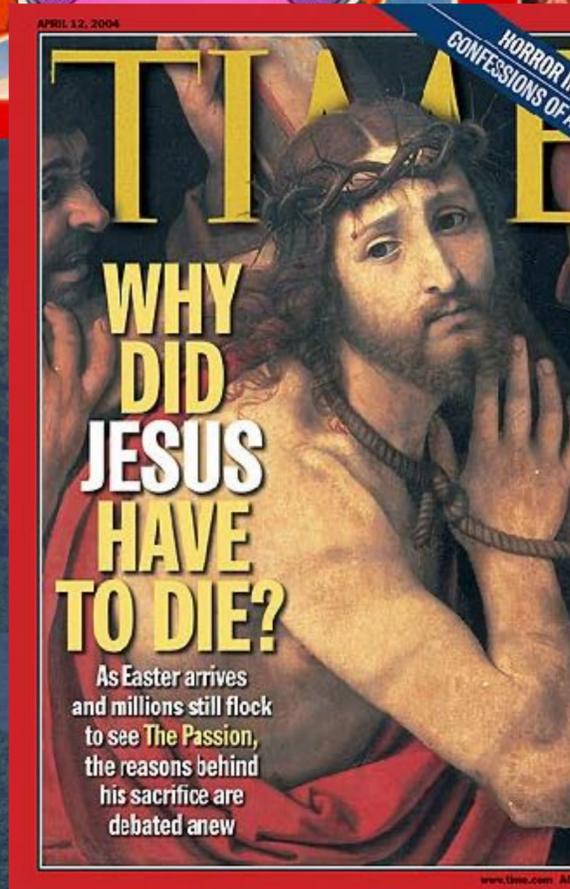
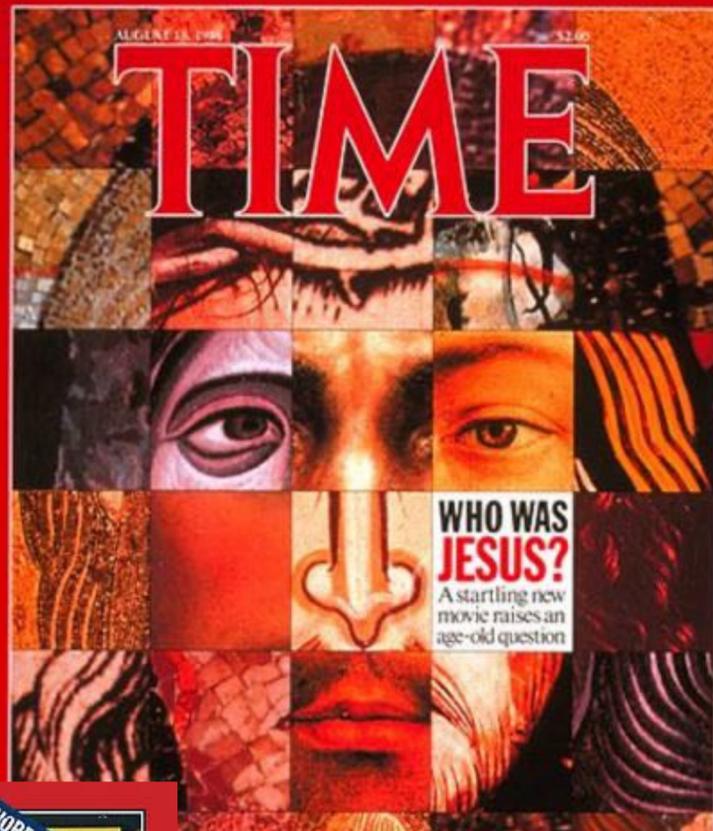
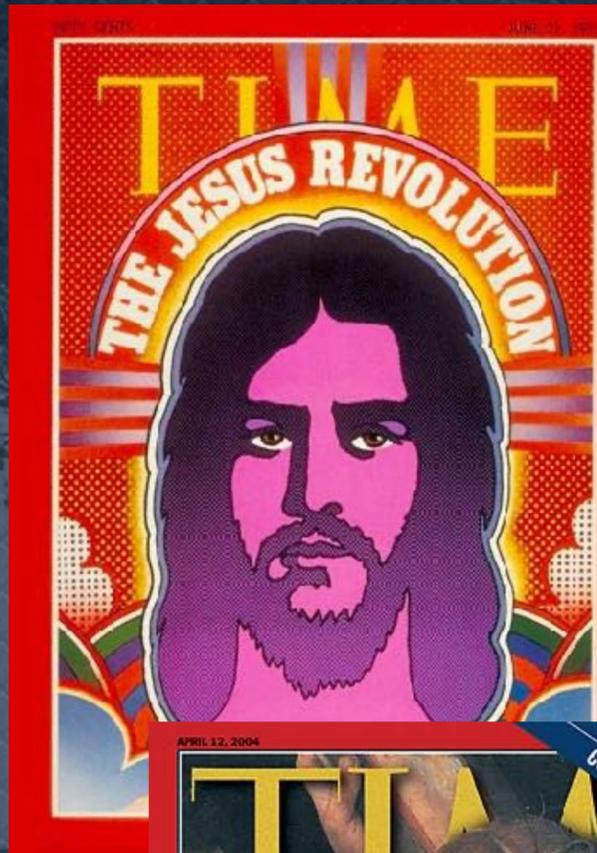
The Importance of the Question

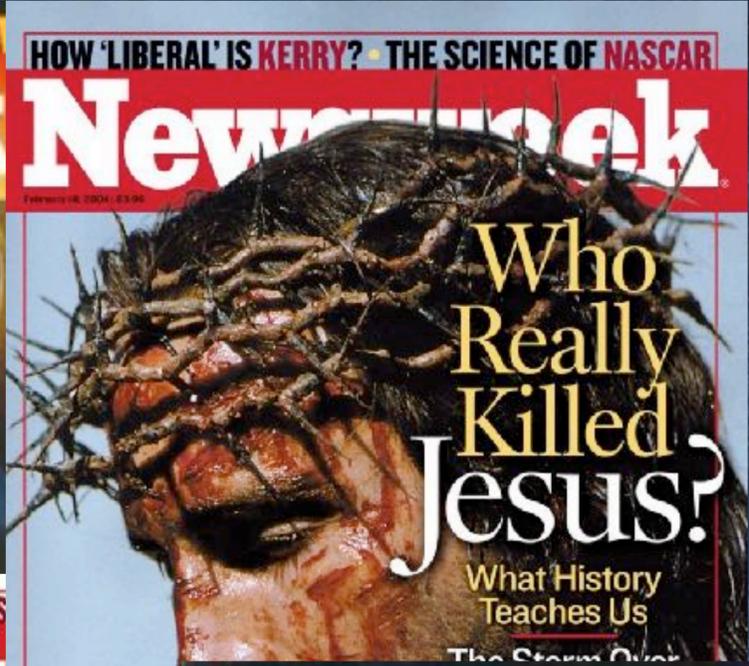
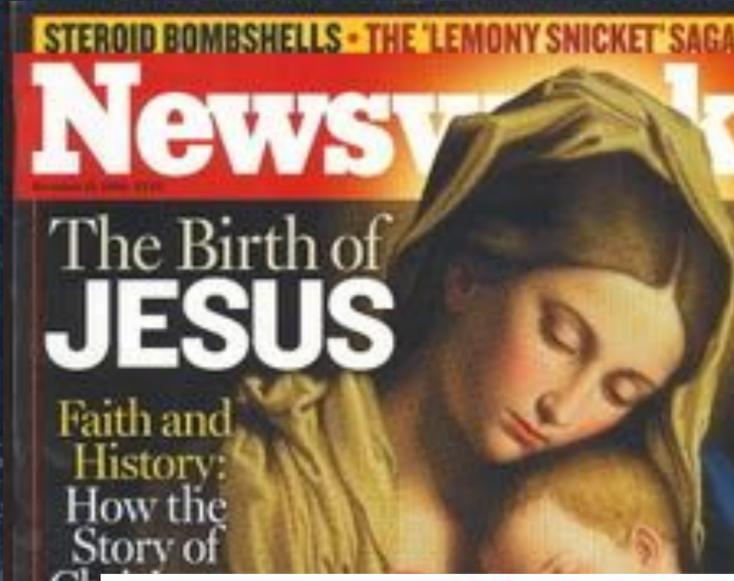


Greg Koukl

Who is Jesus?

Time is constantly trying to debunk Him...





Who is Jesus?

Newsweek seems almost obsessed in going after Him...

Wall Street Wipeout: Is the Worst Over?

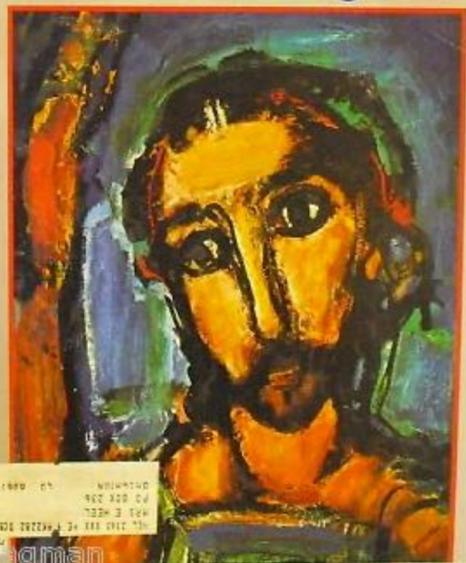
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
U.S. NEWS
APRIL 24, 2010

Why Jesus Was Killed

Scholars find new clues about the Crucifixion



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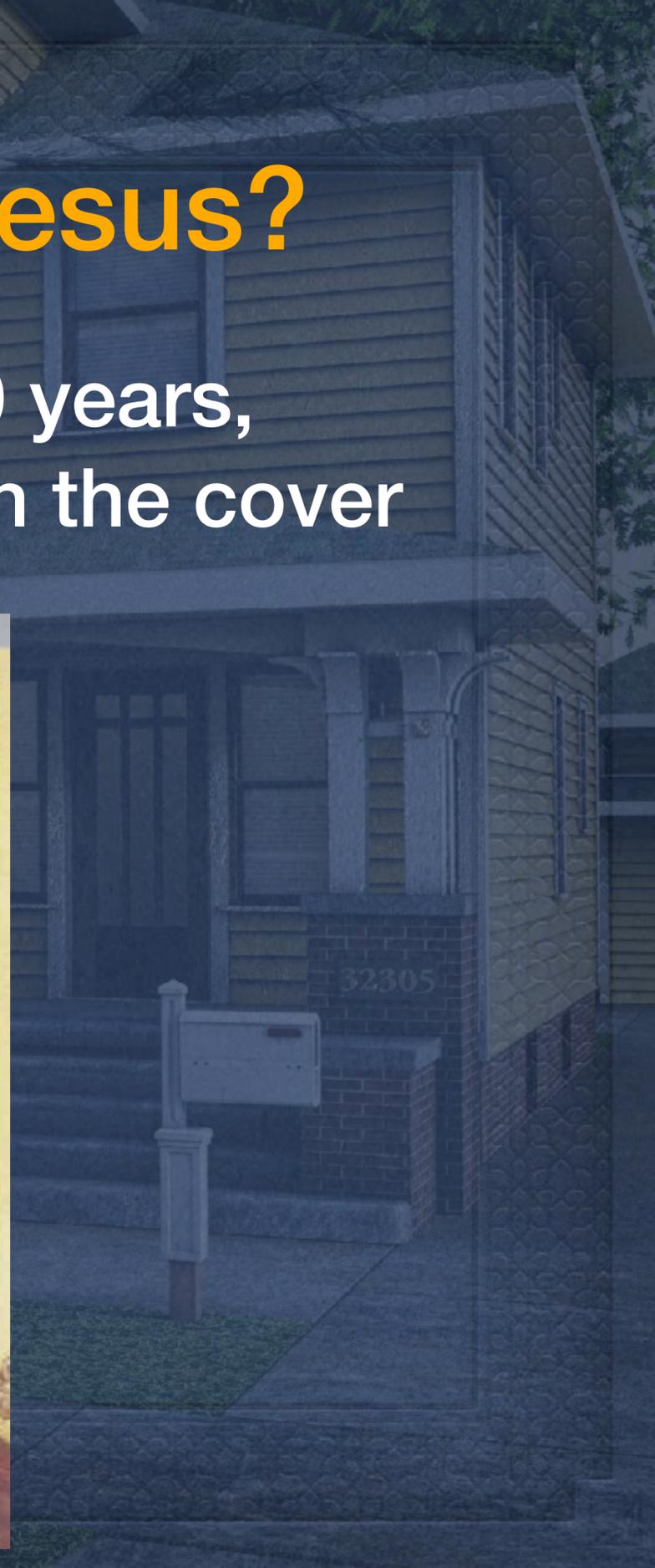
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BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: EXCLUSIVE PICTURES FROM INSIDE THE O.J. SIMPSON CASE
LIFE
SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF JESUS AND WHY IT MATTERS TODAY
WHO WAS HE?


Who is Jesus?

After nearly 2000 years, Jesus remains on the cover

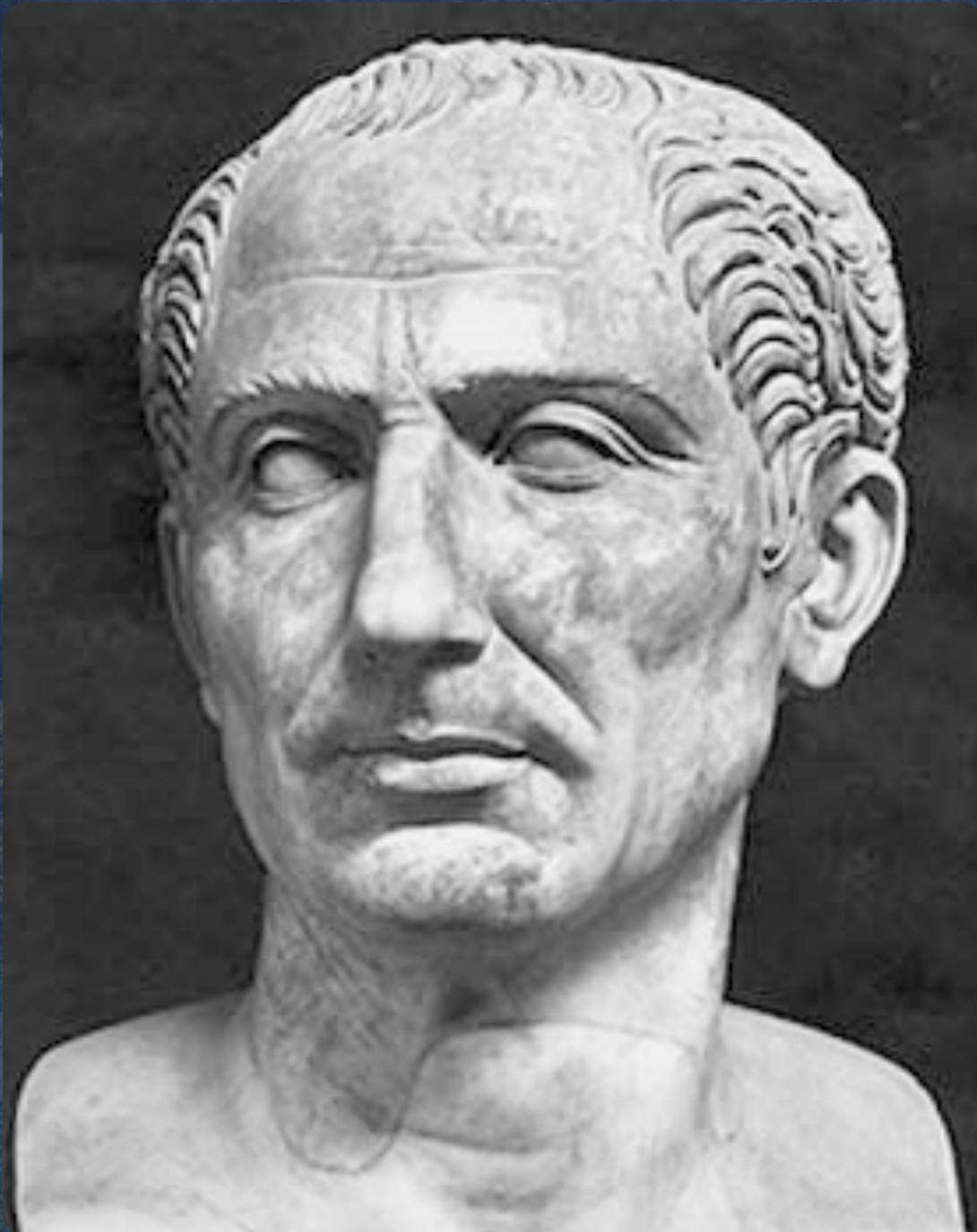


Who was Plato... really?



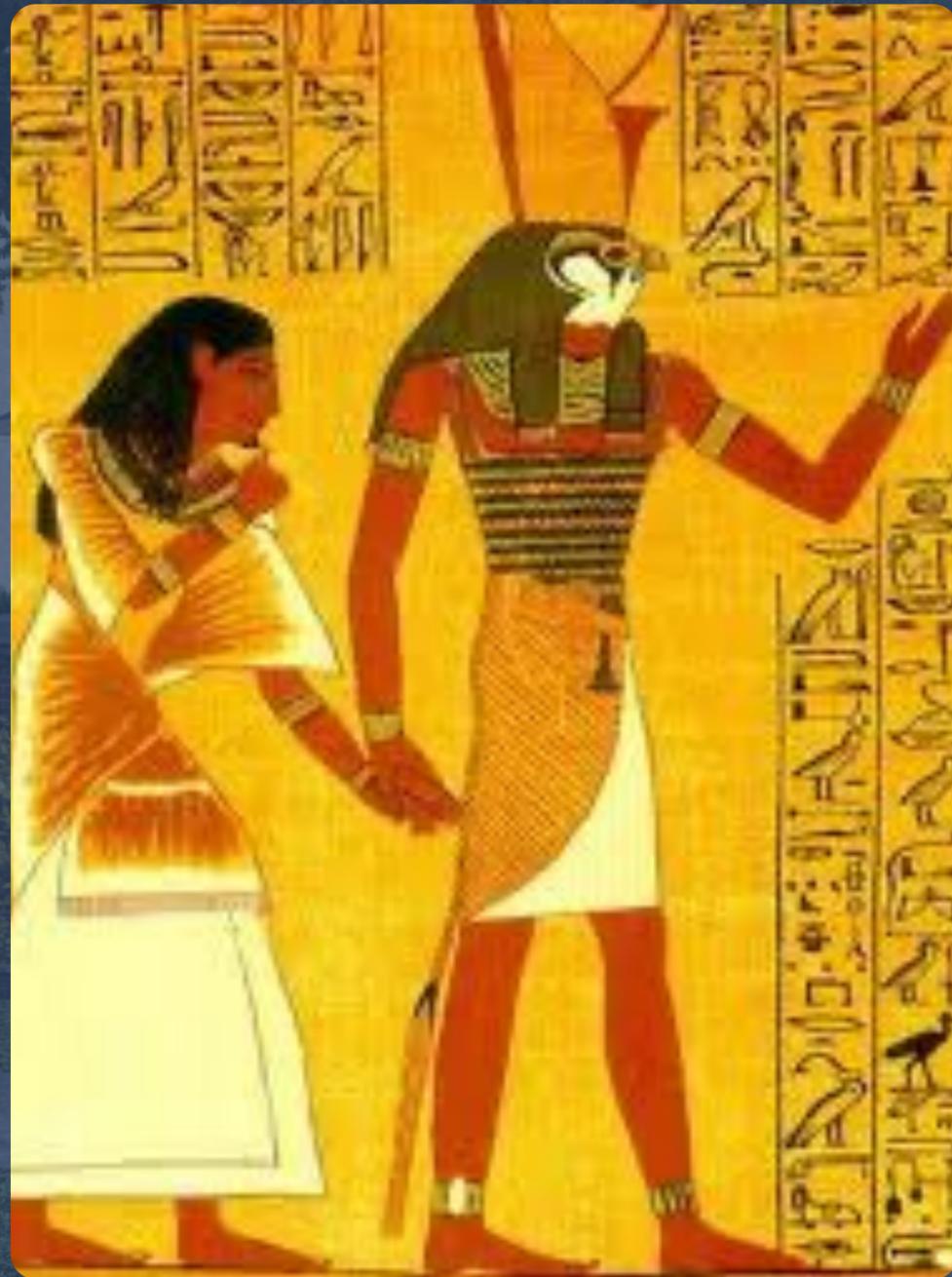
- + Did he really live?
- + Did he really say all that stuff in *The Republic*?
- + Was he a phony?
- + Did his followers make all of it up?

Who was Julius Caesar... really?



- + Did he really live?
- + Did he really say what people say he said?
- + Was he really God?

Who was Horus... really?



- + Why do people go to so much trouble to highly distort this Egyptian mythology to make a case against Jesus?

ZEITGEIST



Zeitgeist

- + Christianity is merely derived from other religions & myths

- + Jesus is a hybrid from myths such as Horus



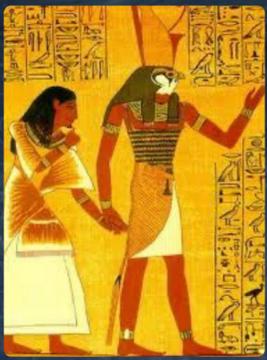


+ Dorothy Milne Murdock, *pen name Acharya S*

+ Spent her life as a supporter of the “*Christ Myth Theory*”, that He never existed, just a hybrid of myths and deities



died on Dec 25, 2015



the real Horus myth

born on Dec 25, of virgin, Isis Mary

3 kings came to worship him

age 30, baptized and began ministry

had 12 disciples

betrayed, crucified, buried for 3 days

resurrected after 3 days

born in Oct/Nov; Isis not a virgin

no record of this

no record of this

Horus had 4 demigod followers

not betrayed; not crucified; no record

not really; became lord of underworld

the same is done with Mithras, Krishna, Attis, Dionysus, etc



GotQuestions.org

Who is Jesus?

- + Why is this such a constant question?
- + What does the world say about Him?



William Holman Hunt
"The Light of the World"
1827-1910

What are the sources?



The ancient documents

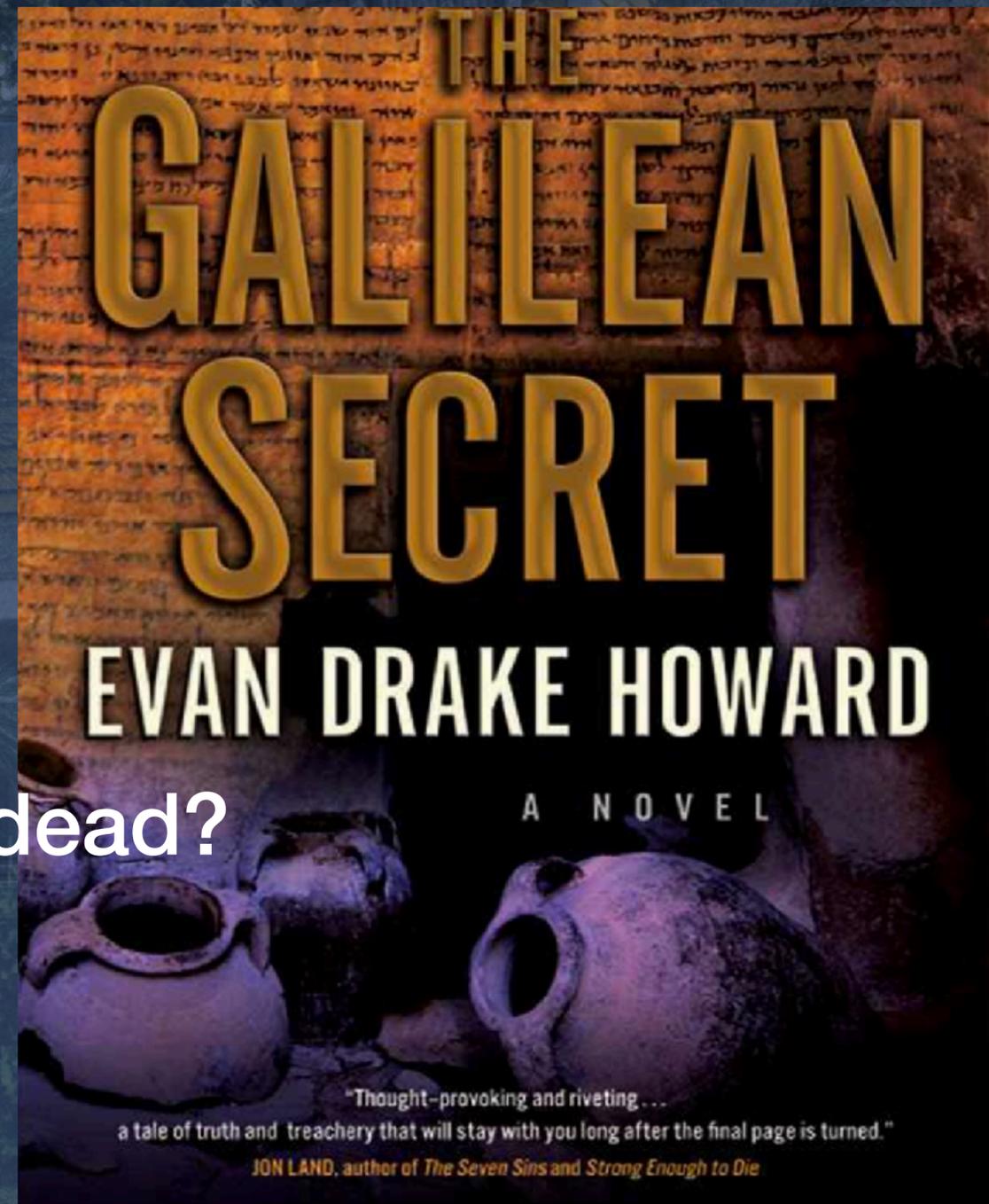
The Reliability of the Sources



Lee Strobel

What Are the Issues?

- + I believe in Julius Caesar!
- + Did Jesus really exist?
- + Is Jesus a myth or legend?
- + Did Jesus really rise from the dead?
- + Did Jesus claim to be God?
- + Is He God?
- + Married? Conspiracies? Magdalene, etc.



And the biggie...

I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through Me.

— Jesus
John 14:6

Exclusivity!

The Big Question...

+ Is Jesus the only way?

We want to be able to answer
this question...

But there is a bigger problem...

Is there really a lack of Evidence?



Greg Koukl

Is there really a lack of Evidence?

So...
what's the problem?

- + Jesus is the problem
- + His words are a problem
- + The greatest obstacle

Our Quest

To know Him...

and to be His faithful, effective witness.

+ Prepare

Learn the Story...love it...tell it.

+ Persuade

With grace and respect, through relationships

+ Pray

Who is Jesus?

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

— C.S. Lewis

Who is Jesus?

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

- C.S. Lewis

Who is Jesus?

The Question Pursued...

- + the promise and the prophecy
- + His life and death
- + the resurrection
- + the claim of deity
- + is Jesus the only way?
- + how to handle the questions

If Jesus Rose from the Dead, then...



40 articles on a defense of the resurrection

beginning the day before Easter and running through Pentecost