

BIBLICAL CONTRADICTIONS

Part 2-“The Crucifixion Contradiction”

Discussion Questions

Matthew 27:37, Mark 15:26, Luke 23:38, & John 19:19

Introduction to the Topic

1. On the sign above the cross of Jesus, the four Gospel authors record the following:

-Matthew: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews

-Mark: The King of the Jews

-Luke: This is the King of the Jews

-John: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews

Several Christians do not view this as a contradiction between the four Gospels, because they say, “This is close enough, the signs are basically saying the same thing.” How do you feel about this? Do you feel like the differences in the Gospel records matter to you? Or are these differences trivial to you?

The Central Metaphor

2. The central metaphor of this film is moving people from the Bible as spreadsheet to the Bible as art gallery. If Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John made a spreadsheet about the crucifixion of Jesus, we would assume that they would have the same spreadsheet with identical figures. Instead, they chose to write creatively about the life of Jesus. Do you think the Bible would be better off as a sanctified spreadsheet, with complete and total accuracy? Why or why not?

3. The central question of this film is this: What makes the Bible valuable? Most Christians today would answer that the Bible is valuable because it is

correct, it is right, and/or it is accurate. Why do you think Christians designate the Bible's value to its accuracy today?

4. After Deemphasizing the Bible's accuracy, Craig talked about how the Bible is valuable because it is human. Several Christians would disagree with the idea that Bible is primarily a human work. How do you feel when you hear the Bible is valuable because it is human? Do you have any reservations or reliefs in referring to the Bible as human?

5. If someone asked you today, "Why is the Bible valuable to you personally?" How would you respond?

6. How did you feel when you saw the four paintings being revealed of the crucifixion? Did that moment teach you anything about what you believe?

7. The doctrine of inerrancy tries to take the human perspective and make it entirely objective. In other words, inerrancy claims that ANYONE could have written the Gospel of Matthew. But that's not what we have. How do you feel about the idea that only Matthew could have written the Gospel of Matthew?

Application

8. In the same way that only Matthew could have written the Gospel of Matthew, what can you do in this coming week to trust that only you can write your own Gospel, or testimony, of God?