



Biblical archaeology – Episode 3

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1. Read 2 Peter 1:16. What does it mean to be an eyewitness? Why is an account by an eyewitness viewed as being so important? What things in the gospels indicate that people were actually present during these narratives?
(Perhaps look at detail in the telling e.g. Mark 6v39 “green grass” or Mark 4v51 – the young man. John 1 v 14 – “we saw him”)
2. We are called to be witnesses to Jesus when we speak to others. What things would make us bad witnesses? How does this affect how we speak and act? (Perhaps look at being truthful, reliable and transparent)
3. There are about five manuscript sources which speak of Julius Caesar and his life. In the Greek language alone, there are 5,700 separate manuscripts of the life of Jesus. If we add in other languages it is closer to 24,000. The written evidence is huge.
Why is this significant? How does this fact equip us when we speak to others about Jesus?
4. The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle recorded by all four gospel writers. (Matt 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, John 6) As you read them, think about the similarities and differences between the accounts. What does that show us about the gospel writers? Why do you think this miracle was so important to them? What can we take from it today?
5. “If (the Bible) is reliable concerning the things we can test, we can trust it when it speaks of things we cannot test.”
Read Hebrews 11 v1. In what ways have the words in the Bible helped you in good and bad times? How has God shown his faithfulness to you during your walk as a Christian?