

Intro

- ~ Court trials hang on evidence presented. Sometimes an attorney will attempt to get evidence thrown out.
- ~ To get evidence thrown out in court, you'll need to prove that it's unreliable, prejudicial, or not authentic. To prove that evidence isn't reliable, you'll need to challenge a witness's competency. For example, you can object to a witness who didn't actually observe the event or is only providing hearsay.
- ~ There is clear trustworthy evidence of a resurrected Christ that is reliable
- ~ Lee Strobel was an atheist whose wife became a believer and as a journalist he started his own investigation

ProofsPhysical Proofs**1 Stone rolled away (v1)**

- ~ The Greek word John uses when Mary saw the stone rolled away is (airo) and it means lifted out. The Greek word literally means to lift
- ~ The synoptic gospels use a word that means the stone was rolled away (apokulio) but John says it was lifted up away
- ~ This was a miraculous feat as the stone would've weighed one and a half to two tons

2 The seal was broken

- ~ *Matt 27:65,66 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. 66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.*
- ~ "The seal that stood for the power and authority of the Roman Empire. The consequences of breaking the seal were extremely severe. The FBI and CIA of the Roman Empire were called into action to find the man or men who were responsible. If they were apprehended, it meant automatic execution by crucifixion upside down. People feared the breaking of the seal. Jesus' disciples displayed signs of cowardice when they hid themselves. Peter, one of these disciples, went out and denied Christ three times." *Josh McDowell*
- ~ Perhaps one of the reasons the disciples were hiding for fear is that the seal was broken and they feared they would've been accused of breaking the seal.
- ~ "The idea is that they sealed the stone in the presence of the guard, and then left them to keep watch. It would be important that the guard should witness the sealing. The sealing was performed by stretching a cord across the stone and fastening it to the rock at either end by means of sealing clay. Or, if the stone at the door happened to be fastened with a cross beam, this latter was sealed to the rock." *Vincent's Word Studies*

3 Empty tomb (v2)

- ~ In Matthew's gospel (Matt 27:62-66) the chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate and asked to set a Roman security team to keep watch over the stone because they remembered Jesus said he would rise again
- ~ They also sealed the stone with the official Roman seal
- ~ Matthew tells us the Roman Sentry witnessed the angel rolling back the stone in Matt 28:4, "*And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.*"
- ~ The guards go back and report to the chief priests what happened and they bribed the guards and gave them a large sum of money (Matt 28:12-15) and to say his disciples stole his body. So they took the money did as told

4 The linen clothes wrapped neatly (v7)

- ~ Josh McDowell "The body of Jesus, in accordance with Jewish burial custom, was wrapped in a linen cloth. About 100 pounds of aromatic spices, mixed together to form a gummy substance, were applied to the wrappings of cloth about the body."
- ~ John Gill says, "this was plainly the effect of thought, care, and composure; and clearly showed, that the body was not taken away in a hurry, or by thieves, since everything lay in such order and decency; and which was done, either by our Lord himself, or by the angels.

5 Angels' message (v12-15)

- ~ The angel remind Mary that he said he would rise again
- ~ Each time Jesus predicted his death he also spoke of his resurrection (Matt 16:21; 17:9; 20:19)
- ~ One of the angels (Matt & Mark say there was two) also invited Mary to enter the tomb and see where Jesus was laid

6 Jesus' appearance to Mary (v14-17)

- ~ Jesus himself appeared to Mary as a proof
- ~ There was the stone rolled away, empty tomb linen clothes neatly wrapped, the angel's message and the greatest proof of all is Jesus himself appears to Mary first
- ~ At first Mary thought he was just the gardener. This was a big surprise for her
- ~ Gardener = the inspector or overseer of the garden
- ~ She doesn't recognize him until he calls her name (v16) and then she recognizes him
- ~ A good example of what Jesus said in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."
- ~ I wonder if Jesus thought about this incident when he spoke John 10:27

7 Jesus' appearance to the disciples (v19-23)

- ~ His appearance to his disciples was also a proof.
- ~ Imagine if your one of the disciples. John 20:19 tell us they were hiding because of the fear of the Jews
- ~ Mary told them she had seen the resurrected Jesus, Peter and John saw the empty tomb and now Jesus appears
- ~ Three times Jesus says to the disciples "Peace be unto you" (John 20:19, 21, 26)
- ~ Imagine how this must have so thrilled their hearts
- ~ Matthew's account tells us Jesus said, "why are you troubled
- ~ *Luke 24:38 (NLT) "Why are you frightened?" he asked. "Why are your hearts filled with doubt?"*
- ~ Luke also tells us that Jesus asked for food so they gave him a piece of fish and a honeycomb and he ate it so they wouldn't think that he was merely a spirit but he was a glorified Jesus Christ
- ~ *Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.*

8 Jesus shows his glorified scars to prove his identity (v20)

- ~ People all the time have their identities stolen
- ~ Jesus' glorified scars provide his identity that he wasn't someone else masquerading as Jesus. It was the same one who was crucified and yet risen
- ~ *Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.*
- ~ Jesus eats in front of them to prove he's not a spirit and now he tells them to touch his glorified wounds (Lk 24:39)

9 Jesus appears to Thomas to shows him his glorified scars (v26-29)

- ~ Thomas has been dubbed doubting Thomas but if we were one of the disciples we would probably be unbelieving too
- ~ He was not a coward. Thomas was the man who had said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16),
- ~ Thomas also said to Jesus, "we don't know where you're going but how can we know the way" (John 14:5)
- ~ Thomas wasn't present when Jesus appeared to the group and he said he wouldn't believe unless he could put his hands into the wounds he wouldn't believe
- ~ Everyone deals with adversity different and Thomas wanted proof.
- ~ Thomas isn't the only who wants proof. Gideon wanted a sign and he started what we commonly call a "fleece"
- ~ Moses wanted proof because he said he couldn't speak well & Israel needed a sign (1 Cor 1:22)
- ~ May we avoid the mistake of needing proof to believe God

Spiritual Proofs

1 Mary believed (v11-18)

2 Disciples were glad when they saw Jesus (v20)

3 Disciples are telling Thomas about Jesus being resurrected (v25)

4 Thomas believed and said, "my Lord and my God" (v

5 Believing on Christ (v30,31)

- ~ The evidence of spiritual proofs is that these once fearful, and hiding group is they went everywhere preaching
- ~ *Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them,*
- ~ If we read they all became wealthy & famous we could question their change yet didn't achieve wealth & status
- ~ When difficulty, adversity, and doubts creep into our lives we have the proofs of the 1) word 2) Holy Spirit witness in our heart giving us assurance 3) past faithfulness of God