

C. S. I.
Cross Scene Investigation

- If you were able to take modern technology and return to a certain spot outside Jerusalem in around 30 AD to collect samples at a crime scene, this is probably how you might want to go about collecting evidence along with statements concerning what had just recently happened.

Isa 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

In order to reconstruct the scene of the crime you would want to gather as many people who witnessed the event as possible.

People you would interview.

First we'll go to His mother Mary to get a little background on the One they call the Christ.

- His mother, Mary- Lk 2:40-52; Jn 19:26-27

Interviewer: *What kind of a Son was Jesus?*

Mary: *He was not just any ordinary Son. He grew up well liked among others and was very wise. Not that He was attractive, because He really wasn't. It was the spirit and grace in His speech that defined Him and attracted others to Him. He broke my heart but in the end He appointed His disciple John to take care of me. He is such a good Son.*

This description would fulfill the prophesy...

Isa 53:2 For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.

Next we'll go to Pontius Pilate the to speak with him.

- Pontius Pilate- Mat 27:12-26; Jn 18:36

Interviewer: *What was your impression of Jesus?*

Pilate: *Oh, He seemed harmless enough. He didn't have a lot to say even though the chief priests and the elders of the Jews claimed He broke some law. Surely knowing the consequence of the trial would have made Him talk. He did make a few comments about being a king over some un-earthly kingdom but I really didn't take Him seriously. (Jn 18:36) So I decided to have Him scourged hoping they would have pity on Him. That didn't work so I still tried to let Him go. To do that I thought about the custom of releasing a prisoner to the Jews at their passover feast. The one to be released was to be their choice. I thought of the most vile prisoner we had in prison, one Barabbas who was charged with murder while making insurrection. Surely they would choose to let Jesus go when comparing Him to Barabbas. Even my wife, who had a dream about Jesus, wanted me to have nothing to do with His fate. In the end, I was worried about my own life when the Jews made some sort of comment about my not being a friend to Caesar. That was what really made the decision for me. So, after*

I washed my hands of the whole mess and they stated that His blood would be on them I had no choice but to give Him over to be crucified. I now wish I hadn't.

Isa 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as **One** from **Whom** men hide their faces **He** was despised, and we esteemed **Him** not. **4** Surely **He** has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed **Him** stricken, smitten by **God**, and afflicted. **5** But **He** was wounded for our transgressions; **He** was crushed for our iniquities; upon **Him** was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with **His** stripes we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--everyone--to his own way; and the **LORD** has laid on **Him** the iniquity of us all. **7** **He** was oppressed, and **He** was afflicted, yet **He** opened not **His** mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so **He** opened not **His** mouth.

We leave Pilate and next find the man who helped Jesus carry His cross up to the place of the scull. His name is Simon and he is from Cyrene.

- Simon of Cyrene- Mat 27:32

Interviewer: *So you are the one who helped Jesus carry his cross?*

Simon: *I really didn't want to but I was compelled to. He didn't have much strength after they beat Him so. Jesus had quite an impression on my son Rufus. (Rom 16:13) I'm not so sure about how Alexander, my other son, felt about the whole thing. It sure did affect me. I'm glad I was able to help Jesus of Nazareth since I really didn't think He was guilty. There's word that He resurrected. Good for Him if that's so..*

Let's go over there to talk to one of His enemies. There were a few of them here.

- The high priest-

Interviewer: *Well it appears that you didn't really care much for the One called the King of the Jews, did you?*

High priest: *No I didn't! We are the seed of Abraham who are looking for the Christ Who is to sit on our father David's throne. He was no king. But He accused us of being the children of the Devil. (Jn 8:39-44) He even claimed to be older than Abraham when He wasn't yet fifty years old! (Jn 8:57-58) Who did He think He was coming into Jerusalem making those blasphemous remarks about being the Son of our God? (Jn 8:54) We even tried to have Pilate put a seal and guard at His tomb because of His claim of rising on the third day. That just goes to show how not even Pilate can be trusted. (Mat 27:62-66) He even wanted to let Jesus go. The nerve of it. We'll now have to deal with the rumor that He did raise up. We even paid some of the soldiers to say they fell asleep and His disciples came and took His body away and buried it elsewhere. (Mat 28:11-15) This is really going to have an adverse effect on the temple treasury.*

Next we find Malchus the high priest's servant.

- Malchus, the high priest's servant- Jn 18:10-11

Interviewer: *So I understand you had a little run-in with one of Jesus' disciples.*

Malchus: *Yes. I did. Ahhh, Simon Peter was his name. Man I could see the anger in his eyes. He would have cut my head off if he could. He was only able to cut off my*

right ear. Boy was I lucky. I just can't get over what their rabbi did AFTER he told Peter to sheath the sword that he had. He picked up my ear, soaked in blood as it was, and just put it back on the side of my head as though He was putting a shoe back on a foot. (Lk 22:52) I just cannot get over it. I was His enemy but He treated me like a friend. The compassion in His eyes.....I'm still having trouble asking myself, why? I was there for the prime purpose of taking Him in. The others also had their plans for this Jesus on the way back. I'm so confused. All He knew was that I was there to do Him harm. How can anyone be so merciful. We're here to try to find His body because we were told that some of His disciples came and took it away. I really want to believe that He rose up from the dead. After all, how hard would that be to believe after knowing what He did to my ear.

As we go through the crowd gathered here we find a man named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews but secretly he was known as a friend of this Jesus.

- Nicodemus- Jn 3:1-21

Interviewer: So, you are the man who had Jesus laid in your own brand new tomb. What made you go and do a thing like that?

Nicodemus: As one of the rulers of the Jews I wasn't able to meet with Jesus during the day hours. I just didn't think the others would appreciate me going to Him for answers. He had to have been sent by God. All those miracles. How could they be explained? And yes, I am the man who furnished the tomb to lay His body in. But now they are saying that He resurrected from the dead. The whole city's in an uproar over it. I was at the tomb. The grave clothes that I helped bury Him with were there, neatly folded as though He just got up in the morning and made His bed. I'm so excited that I don't know how to take all of this. Cleopas said that he and a friend were traveling on the road to Emmaus when they had an encounter with Jesus. (Lk 24:13-35) They say even the faithful dead came out of their tombs after He arose. (Mat 27:52-53) A lot of strange things have happened since Jesus came. A lot of strange things.

Isa 53:8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people? 9 And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth. 10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

There are some bystanders next on our list of people to talk to.

- Bystanders- Mk 15:29

Interviewer: Were you one of the bystanders here for the crucifixion?

Bystander: Yea. I was here. I usually come to these things. They're all the same. Except for the One crucified in the middle. He wasn't what He claimed He was. I said to Him "If You are Who You claim to be, come on down." He didn't and we just got another laugh out of it.

Interviewer: *Have you heard about His resurrection?*

Bystander: *Yea. Not sure how to take that one. The rulers were the ones that got us to come up here in the first place. I'm not sure what I'd do if He is Who He says He is. I guess we'll just have to wait and find out, huh?*

Back at the area where Jesus' cross stood we find the centurion that was in charge of the crucifixions here.

- [The Centurion](#)- Mk 15:39 Lk 23:47

Interviewer: *What do you think of the One crucified in the middle of those two thieves.*

The Centurion: *After having witnessed so many crucifixions I still have trouble with that one. Hearing Him say the things He said. I don't know. Usually most criminals cuss and swear and curse us because of our Roman rule over them. But not this Man. He had nothing but compassion for those who were taunting Him. He even had something encouraging to say to the thief hanging next to Him. Something about a place known as paradise as though He was trying to help him make the thought of death less frightening. He had to be at least a righteous Man. More still Who He said He was, the Son of God.*

Isa 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

With the centurion we find some of his soldiers he was in charge of.

- [Roman soldiers](#)- Mat 27:27-31, 54

Interviewer: *How about you men. Can you give any information on this Jesus of Nazareth. We're trying to figure out where He is.*

Soldiers: *We didn't know what to think. What with the earthquake and all. How could that be so coincidental? I feel bad for the way we treated Him. But we were only doing our job. This was not your normal crucifixion. Mistreating the condemned was a way of getting through the day. Sort of sport you might say. But this. This makes me want to have a little more respect for the condemned. You never know who you might be hanging next. Sometimes we make a mistake and hang an innocent man. I think Jesus was one of those cases.*

Next we find Peter, the one who lopped off Malchus' ear.

- [Peter](#)- Jn 20:1-10

Interviewer: *Well. What do you have to say for yourself now, Peter?*

Peter: *HE IS RISEN! I know I cut off Malchus' ear, I know I have always been rather headstrong and I know I denied my Lord three times. I also know that no matter how much I sinned against Him He has forgiven me. He Personally told me so. All those bitter tears (Mat 26:75, Lk 22:62). John and I ran to the tomb as soon as Mary came and told us that He was not there. She said that the stone was rolled back and there were two men in white but no body inside. When we got to the sepulcher John stopped*

at the entrance but I went right in. I wanted to see for myself. But Mary had more to add after we left. Ask her. She'll tell you.

We turn to Mary Magdalene for her statement.

- Mary Magdalene- Lk 8:2; Jn 20:11-18

Interviewer- How can you add to this story, Mary?

Mary Magdalene- I had followed Jesus for some time. His message appealed to the women I think more so than to the men. He spoke with such kindness and about the captives being made free. (Lk 4:18) You know how he cast seven devils out of me! I know He is the Christ Who was to come into the world to save sinners like me. (1 Tim 1:15) I didn't quite know how to handle His death at first. I thought "how can He claim to be the Messiah and yet allow them to take Him and put Him to death?". I thought He was going to sit on David's throne (Lk 1:32) and expel the Romans from all Judea. (Acts 1:6) When I went to the tomb where they laid Him to put some spices on His body He wasn't there. When I turned to ask the gardener where they had laid Him so that I could go there and take Him away I realized that, even though I didn't recognize Him from the disfigurement of His scourging, it was Jesus that I was talking to. I was so excited that I didn't realize I was holding onto Him out of joy. That's when I went to the disciples and told them the rest of the story. Now I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God.

Well, we would have enough evidence at this point to believe that this Jesus really did raise up from the dead. All we need to do now is find out who it was that put Him on that cross in the first place.

Evidence you would collect.

At the scene the crosses would already have been removed but there is blood at the bases where they stood.

- Blood from the cross in the middle- (*The malefactors were guilty thus their punishment was warranted.*)

One of the witnesses stated that the one thief, the penitent one, stated to the other that they were both guilty.

Luk 23:41 And we indeed justly, for **we are receiving the due reward of our deeds**; but this man has done nothing wrong."

- The nails-

Col 2:14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This **He** set aside, **nailing it to the cross**.

- Other DNA-

1Pe 2:24 **He Himself** bore **our sins** in **His** body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. **By His wounds you have been healed.**

With all the evidence collected, whether through the interviews or the physical evidence found at the scene, the verdict is in. The DNA matches that of us all. It was our sin that put Jesus on that cross. Our sin shed His blood and hammered those nails into His hands and feet. We are guilty of crucifying the innocent One Who is the Christ. Our punishment should be an eternal confinement in the torment of a fiery Hell. But! Just as Jesus looked into the eyes of Malchus He looks into our eyes and says "I love you" to the point of giving His life on the cross in our stead. What will you do with Him in return? Will you deny Him or repent of your sin and confess Him as your Lord and will you obey His voice and have your sins washed away in the waters of baptism to become a new child of God? Will you allow God to add you to His church because you can't just "join the church of your choice"? Whatever your need God, as Judge, wants to declare you "not guilty" according to the evidence against you at this Cross Scene Investigation.

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