

The Case of Christ: Reflection

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Lee Strobel and his documentary on Christianity has been a great tool for people of all walks of life. This documentary gives a Christian the insight on the thoughts of an atheist and the knowledge of those that believe but still have their questions as to who, what, when, where and why. As we reflect on this documentary together I will point out the crucial points made as well as the journey of Lee Strobel as he searches for answers based on Christianity.

Throughout much of Lee Strobel's life he was considered an atheist, he didn't believe in God let alone Christianity. As a journalist for fourteen years in Chicago, Illinois Lee Strobel only believed in what he could prove to be true. He found it hard to believe that a man could raise from the dead or make these so-called miracles happen. He was simply known as an antagonist of the Gospel. Later, in his life he would eventually marry a woman who thought slightly different from him. Although she wasn't one hundred percent sure in the gospel she had an edge on her husband (Lee Strobel) because she possessed an intuitive mind of a spiritual understanding between the bible and what she felt. Mrs. Strobel would eventually embrace a life of going to church to find out more about this being people called God/Jesus. This was not the life that Lee wanted for his family but he was willing to embrace the change that his wife was making. Over time Lee states that he began to see a change in his wife. He noticed her interactions with their children were more pleasant, as well as her

interaction with him as well; she seemed more at peace and centered with herself. Eventually as time went on Mrs. Strobel would take the opportunity to ask her husband to come to church with her. After noticing the changes, she made Lee decided to visit this church with his wife. During this visit, Pastor Bill Hybels preached on the life of a Christian. This message brought clarity and understanding to the Christian walk. Even though the message brought understanding it didn't change Lee's overall view but became intrigued to dig deeper in order to uncover the unanswered questions he still struggled with.

Thankful for his connections due to his occupation at the time as a journalist. He used these tools to start an all-out research campaign on the New testament of the bible. Searching for any truth or facts that would bring understanding to the countless questions he still had. It would take Lee Strobel two full years to uncover the evidence he needed. Lee would begin by seeking information from five of the top theologians at the time; J.P Moreland (Professor of Philosophy), Mark Strauss (Professor of New Testament), Craig Blomberg (Professor of New Testament), Craig Evans (Professor of New Testament), and N.T Wright (Bishop of Durham).

Lee Strobel would put the credentials of these five men to the test. Lee new that studying the new testament wouldn't show the authentic word of god told by god. Lee would simply find ancient documentation of accounts

that occurred during Jesus's lifetime. Thanks to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and the three synoptic gospels. These ancient documents as Lee Strobel likes to put it; would bring information, consistency, and parallel descriptions of encounters that Jesus conducted throughout his life time.

As Lee began to research the gospels he wanted to find out if what he was reading were eyewitness accounts or just blanket stories told by people that may have heard on or two accounts. Lee began to realize that these stories were biographies of the life of Jesus. Made solely on eyewitness accounts. In Luke's beginning introduction, he makes his intentions clear and sites the purpose of the gospel with boldness; Luke 1:1-3 states "Many have undertaken to draw up an account of things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught". Luke wrote this parable with confidence due to the fact that he made a thorough investigation of the eyewitness accounts. Being that these accounts were written shortly after the death of Jesus implies that if there were any untruths told, the untruths would have been debunked immediately simply because the eyewitnesses of his life, legacy, works and example were still present to testify of the accounts told.

Lee would next be concerned about the contradictions displayed in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The synoptic goes run a parallel account of act that Jesus displayed during his life and his death. Throughout the gospels that are slightly different points of views made that may seem as contradiction when in reality the authors are speaking solely from their point of view but yet the bases of the story's all run in unison with one another. Which would eventually lead Lee Strobel to question the authenticity of the scripts that were written as well as proof of any account or writings of Jesus outside of the Jews. Evidence outside of the bible and the Jews would be shown through several critical writers of Rome. Josephus a Jewish historian would also lay claim to a man name Jesus in his writings over the 1 century.

Lee would later begin to question the remainder of Jesus's life. Looking for proof throughout the gospels and historians for the facts on the death of Jesus; did Jesus really die and be risen from the dead in three days, why were the women the ones to find Jesus and were the stories true? Throughout the remainder of the documentary historians and scholars would make claim to the gospels and show proof and testimony to show Lee Strobel. Later it would be shown the push to share the good news. The disciples would later have very hard lives for as long as 20 years. Showing evidence that why would they be willing to die for a story that they made up. Scholars felt that these disciples were willing to share the good news because they had an I witness accounts of Jesus's resurrection.

Lee Strobel would eventually compile all the evidence that he gathered. Separating pros and cons of what he accumulated and began to realize that he needed faith to go along with all the positive evidence he compiles of the course of two years. He would then tell his wife of the decision he made to embrace Christianity; his life would never be the same. Lee Strobel a previous antagonist of the gospel was now considered a believer of Jesus and a member of the Christian faith.