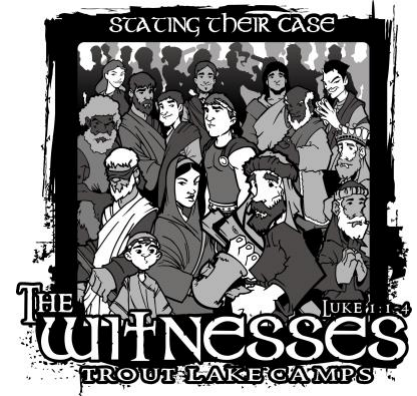


Day 1

T.A.G. Time Along with God

You have been called upon to take part in an amazing task... **you** must decide the **TRUTH**. **You** must decide beyond a reasonable doubt what is **TRUE** and what is **NOT**. **You** have been called upon to fulfill an amazing responsibility as a jury member in the trial of the century, more than that, the trial of the last 20 centuries. Are **you** ready?



"I have investigated all the reports in close detail, reports handed down by the original eyewitnesses... so that you can know beyond a shadow of a doubt the reliability of what you were taught" These are the words of a doctor named Luke. He wrote them around 61 AD- that's 1,946 years ago. But today his words still have a huge impact on anyone who reads the Bible.

So what's this trial about? What if over a thousand years ago there was a courtroom in which Luke had to prove his Gospel was true? Now, you and I both know this really didn't happen; there never was a trial, but... what if there was? This week you will be in that courtroom, you will witness Luke's testimony, will learn firsthand what Luke teaches us about Jesus.

Let's look at that letter again--

*Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the 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. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me 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 1:1-4

Even if Luke never really went on trial, he was prepared to! He told us everything we needed to know!

Who's this Luke guy?

Although Luke was a doctor, he really did investigate Jesus' life story. He never met Jesus face-to-face, instead Luke learned everything he could about Jesus from all of the people (real life witnesses) that had seen Jesus in person. For Luke, it all started one day when a guy named Paul told him Jesus' story. Years later, Luke wrote his letter to tell others about Jesus. Later on, Luke wrote a second letter to Theophilus, we call it the book of "Acts." It tells about the amazing journeys he and Paul experienced together.

Who else wrote about Jesus?

In your Bible, there are many books that tell us things about who Jesus is. The Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell us the most about Jesus. Although many others who have written about Jesus, these four letters were considered the best of the best, because God told Matthew, Mark, John, and LUKE what they should tell us about Jesus.

Who are the eyewitnesses?

The word Luke originally used for eyewitness means "to see for yourself." More than anything, Luke wanted you and I to read exactly what the eyewitness told him about Jesus. He hoped that by reading his letter, we could know exactly who Jesus was! That's why he "investigated" Jesus' story for us. That's why he talked to so many eyewitnesses. Luke wrote all of this for you, me, and Theophilus.

So, who was Theophilus?

Theophilus was a very important man. That's why Luke calls him "most excellent Theophilus." Most people who study the Bible think the two of them must have been pretty good friends. That's why Luke wanted him to know the truth about Jesus. Luke may have worried that his friend was having a problem believing all of the amazing stories about Jesus.

You're the jury, you get to decide. Are you ready?

Questions:

1. How would you feel if a story you wrote was put on trial? How would you feel if people called you a liar?
2. How can we know that Luke wrote the truth about Jesus' life?
3. How would your life be different if you saw Jesus with your own eyes? How?
4. As a member of the Jury, what will it take for you to believe Luke's gospel?

Memory Verse-

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the 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. Luke 1:1

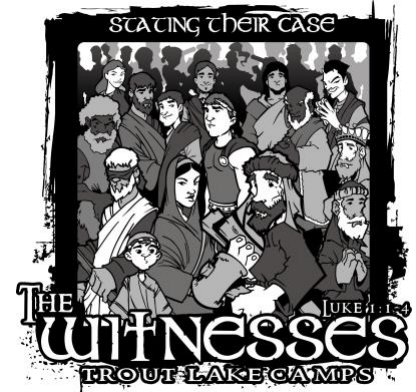
Bonus Verse-

*Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me 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 1:3-4*

Day 2

T.A.G. Time Along with God

You have been called upon to take part in an amazing task... **you** must decide the **TRUTH**. **You** must decide beyond a reasonable doubt what is **TRUE** and what is **NOT**. **You** have been called upon to fulfill an amazing responsibility as a jury member in the trial of the century, more than that, the trial of the last 20 centuries. Are **you** ready?



Dear Jury Member,

In trials, sometimes when people can't appear in court, their testimonies are given on paper- It's called a "deposition" (dep o 'si tion n. testimony that is given under oath, especially a statement given by a witness that is read out in court). For the next four mornings, I will choose several testimonies - a witnesses' words on paper - hopefully these will help you determine the guiltiness of... I mean, the truth about this letter Luke wrote, the so-called story of Jesus' life.

The Honorable,
Judge Les Knotyebe

Deposition #1

This deposition contains a "just pretend" interview with the real boy that helped feed "the 5,000."
--Judge Les Knotyebe, Luke (Defense), and Ms. Sorry (Prosecution) present.

READ EXHIBIT H PAGE 8 in your Luke's letter file! (9:10-26 and other text mentioned below)

Judge: *"If I lived here, I'd be home now, but I don't, so I'm not... do we have a witness!?"*

Luke: "Did you and I ever talk about your encounter with Jesus?"

Boy: **"Yes, we talked a few years ago, I remember you wanting to make sure you had the correct amount of fish and bread, and other details for your story."**

Ms. Sorry: "If that's true, Luke why didn't you write about the hundreds of fish and thousands of loaves of bread you brought with you? Or should I say your parents sent with you! Isn't it true that your mom and dad run a fish and bread stand? Obviously, this was a blatant attempt at personal gain by both the boy and this Jesus character."

Boy: **"No that's not right... well, yes they do. But..."**

Ms. Sorry: "So I'm right, this story is nothing but an advertisement for your parent's fish restaurant?"

Boy: **"Hardly, my mom had just packed me a lunch. Sure, she said if I saw Jesus, I might offer him a loaf or two. She had heard about him and wanted him to try her homemade Jersey Rye."**

Luke: "So, what happened when you gave him your fish?"

Boy: **"It was a miracle!"**

Ms. Sorry: "I am sure it was. It's a miracle that Jesus fell into your trap and advertised for your family restaurant in front of 5,000 unsuspecting citizens!"

Boy: **"No, it was nothing like that, how in the world do you think I could bring that much food to that mountain side? At most we could deliver to a party of twenty, and our Ox was in the shop that day, he'd thrown a shoe, that's how I was able to go to the mountainside in the first place- Mom gave me the day off and I..."**

Ms. Sorry: "So, you admit it, you do deliver... interesting..."

Boy: **"No, it was a miracle... thousands of men, women and children were fed by my two fish and five loaves... TWO FISH, FIVE LOAVES!"**

Luke: "Wait just a 60 second minute, here. Did your parents' restaurant get any more business out of this event?"

Boy: **"No, actually, from that day on it was a really slow week for us, everyone had gotten so full eating at the hill, they didn't feel like eating fish again so soon."**

Judge: *"Just a regular kind of minute here ... My mom always told me that I could give a man a fish and he could eat for a day, or I could teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime, My Mom never said anything about some silly restaurant or any boy's lunchbox on some hillside... Rule number #4 I am always right, so that means my mom must always be right too!"*

Boy: **"Sir, I am not sure you understand, Jesus feeding all of those people wasn't even the most amazing thing I saw or heard that day, it was what Peter, one of His disciples said..."**

Judge: *"I have had enough of this, something more amazing than feeding 5,000 people... this is madness, next Witness!"*

Deposition #2

This deposition contains an interview with Peter, one of Jesus' Disciples, and one of "The 5,000."
Also EXHIBIT H PAGE 8 (READ IT!)

Luke: "Peter, you spent a lot of time with Jesus, yet when you and I talked about your relationship with Him, you said there was one day in particular, one day in his early ministry that really stuck out to you."

Peter: **"Yes, that was one of the most amazing moments in my life, the first time God had ever said anything through me. It was right after Jesus fed the 5,000."**

Ms. Sorry: "Judge, I believe you have already made a decision about this feeding rumor!!"

Judge: "All your arguing about food is making me hungry- I decree, there shall be no more talk of food!"

Luke: "Yes, Judge, no more talk of food. So, what happened next Peter?"

Peter: **"It was the day I first realized Jesus was the Son of God."**

Luke: "You realized?"

Peter: **"Good point Luke. Actually God told me or said it through me- its hard to say exactly!"**

Ms. Sorry: "HEARSAY!!"

Judge: "Mrs. Sorry, I just ate my last Hershey bar, or I would have shared."

Ms. Sorry: "No your Honorableness, what I am saying is that there is no way to prove that God actually told Peter anything! This is hearsay- we only have this witnesses' word- God is not on the stand to tell us what he said or did not say to or through Peter!"

Luke: "There is also no way to prove that God didn't tell him that Ms. Sorry."

Judge: "All your arguing is making me hungry- Bailiff please fetch me a candy bar... and apparently one for Ms. Sorry as well."

Peter: **"But, Your Honor, God did reveal to me who Jesus was... this is a bigger concern than some candy bar!"**

Judge: "Yes, as I just said, two candy bars."

Peter: **"This is about the Son of God coming to earth to save us all from our sin! This is HUGE!"**

Judge: Yes, I am sure my good man. A super-size Hershey would have been much better than the little snack size bar I had... by the way, do you happen to have a Banana or some American cheese?

Luke: "Your Honor, can we just get back to this witnesses' testimony please?"

Peter: **"When God revealed to me that Jesus was His son, that Jesus was the Christ, it was mind blowing! Especially that day, and even today I am not sure I fully understand it, it means that God had sent a Savior, our Savior into the world."**

Judge: "He's must not be much of a saver... I never got any of that fish... didn't save me any."

Peter: **"Your honor, you're missing it. He, Jesus was the Savior. He was the chosen one. He was God 100% and man 100%. He was the only one who could save the world, who could save us from our own sin."**

And for some reason, I was chosen to be the first disciple to say those words out loud. I was the first to actually know who he was... not just take a guess at who he was as all the other people on that hill were doing that day."

Judge: "But what does this have to do with my being hungry now?"

Peter: "Nothing sir, it's much bigger than that."

Judge: "I thought so. The witness is dismissed."

As you can see, this Luke fellow has written quite a story or two. The question before you is how in the world can you agree with a boy with advertising aspirations and a man who hears God in his head yet doesn't have the decency to bring me a snack. Hopefully these affidavits will help you determine the truth about this letter Luke wrote, the so-called story of Jesus' life.

The Openmindedness,
Judge Les Knotybe

Read More:

Read Luke's actual story about the 5000- Luke 9:10-17, John 6, this passage talks about the boy the most, Luke 9, and Matthew 14.

Questions:

1. Why would people find it so hard to believe that two fish and five loaves really fed over 5,000 people? If you were that boy, what would Jesus have done that would have surprised you the most?
2. If you were there and saw it for yourself, would you have suspected that someone was trying to pull a "trick" on you? Or would you have trusted your eyes, nose, and taste buds?
3. Put yourself in the boy's shoes... if you were him, what would you have told your mom when you got home?
4. Peter was the first person to identify Jesus as the man the world was waiting for-- the man that God would send to save the world-- the "Christ", the Son of God. Why didn't Peter realize who Jesus was on his own, why do you think that it took God to personally reveal that to Peter?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of God?
6. Was there ever an impossible situation in your life, when you knew that God came through for you? What happened?

Memory Verse-

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." Luke 9: 18-20

Bonus Verse-

"Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement, they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." Luke 8:25

Pray About:

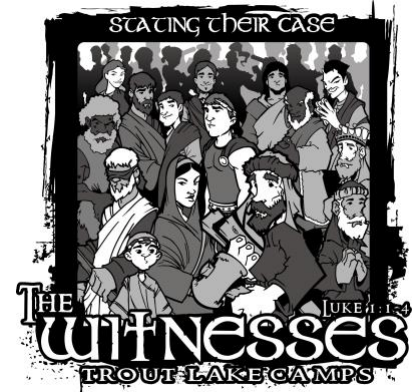
What would you like God to reveal to you?

What amazing thing could you pray from him to do in front of your eyes?

Day 3

T.A.G. Time Along with God

You have been called upon to take part in an amazing task... **you** must decide the **TRUTH**. **You** must decide beyond a reasonable doubt what is **TRUE** and what is **NOT**. **You** have been called upon to fulfill an amazing responsibility as a jury member in the trial of the century, more than that, the trial of the last 20 centuries. Are **you** ready?



Dear Jury Member,
I have chosen another few... testimonies just for you... Wow, I sounded a bit musical there didn't I?
The Honorable,
Judge Les Knotyebe

Deposition #3

Just above EXHIBIT K on Page 10 (READ IT NOW - As in first!! It's Luke 12:1-12)

Containing a "just pretend" interview with the real Pharisees in the "Crowd of many Thousands"
--Judge Les Knotyebe, Luke, and Ms. Sorry present.

Judge: "Save the cheerleader, save the world... Do I have a witness?"

Ms. Sorry: "I would like to call a Pharisee that attended the Crowd of Many Thousands."

Pharisee: "Why thank you most honored prosecution..."

Judge: "I am the only honor in this courtroom, Mr. Pharisee!"

Pharisee: "My apologies sir, I was simply complimenting Ms. Sorry."

Luke: "Objection, heaping compliments on the prosecution"

Judge: "I'll allow it, but just this once. The prosecution has done awfully well."

Pharisee: "Well, first off, some friends and I were trying to see this Jesus guy, and see what kind of trouble he was going to cause. He had already developed quite the reputation for being a troublemaker. Right away we found ourselves in this crowd. In fact, it was so crowded that many were pushing and shoving each other to get the best seats- our seats. We had come very early, we deserved to be up front, but a few people tried to push us away. It was very upsetting, all so poorly organized, at one point my glasses got knocked off and I still haven't found them."

Judge: "I see... very poor crowd management. Go on."

Pharisee: "So Jesus comes out. You would think the guy would start speaking to us? Yet, he didn't. He was just talking to his own followers, as if we weren't even there."

Ms. Sorry: "Sounds quite rude. What did he say?"

Pharisee: "This guy starts calling the four of us names, right there in front of all those people. He said we were full of yeast. Can you believe that? Yeast!"

Judge: "I have heard a lot of name calling in my day... but the nerve to call someone 'yeast,' well that's just... completely uncall... um. I don't get it?"

Pharisee: "We didn't either, honestly, we were all a bit confused. Last time I checked, yeast was used to make bread rise for baking. Making bread fluffy is a good thing, right? But after he called us yeast he got really mad. He told all his pals that my friends and I should not be trusted. He told them that he planned to reveal to everyone everything that we had ever done-- especially the bad stuff! I know I'm not perfect

your honor, but that man threatened my livelihood. My personal business... I mean ministry. I started to worry that he must have been following us around listening to our plans... this man threatened to repeat everything we said!

Ms. Sorry: "So, Jesus was a spy?"

Luke: "No, No, No. Jesus was saying that once we die, our lives will be revealed. He wanted us to know that the way we live is important. God wants us to do good things, he's not a spy. He loves us! He just wants the best for us. Jesus was worried that his followers would get caught up in hypocrisy-- in the way the Pharisees lived their lives. This man and the other Pharisees use other's faith in God for their own personal power. Jesus just wants all of us to focus on growing in our relationship with God"

Pharisee: <cough, cough> "Well, I don't know about all of that. I just remember Jesus saying that he knew how many hairs were on my head. What an odd threat! How could he know that without sneaking into my house at night and counting? We just came to hear him talk, and the man starts threatening us. It's not right. Then he starts on about birds... again, it was all so very odd.

Luke: "Your honor, may I point out that this Pharisee has retold this event exactly as it appears in my Gospel. He simply does not like what Jesus said, because his lifestyle was very much threatened by Jesus' teachings. On the other hand, I, and many believers like me, thought Jesus was brilliant, his teaching incredible: God loves us more than the sparrows! He cares for you, your Honor! He simply has expectations for us and wants us to learn to follow him. Putting ourselves first as this Pharisee did and continues to do, falls short."

Judge: "Hmmm, I see. Yet Luke, have you forgotten... rule number five, no singing, and birds sing. Dismissed."

Read More:

Read this passage, especially the last part. You will find the word "acknowledge" it means to accept- to know that something or someone exists. Who is Jesus going to tell the angels about?

Questions:

1. The Pharisees often put themselves above all the others who believed in God. They acted like everything they did was just fine, and the rest of the world was not as good as them. Yet they were very sinful in their attitude towards God. Have you ever met anyone like that?
2. Have you ever lived like a Pharisee?
3. Not only does God know you... he knows everything about you. What does it mean to you when God says you're more important than the sparrows?

Memory Verse-

There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. Luke 12:2-3

Bonus-

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

Pray About:

There's a difference between following God, and believing in Him. Today, pray that you can live your life on the right side of that line, living as a true follower of Jesus.

Day 4

T.A.G. Time Along with God

You have been called upon to take part in an amazing task... **you** must decide the **TRUTH**. **You** must decide beyond a reasonable doubt what is **TRUE** and what is **NOT**. **You** have been called upon to fulfill an amazing responsibility as a jury member in the trial of the century, more than that, the trial of the last 20 centuries. Are **you** ready?



Dear Jury Member,

I want to remind you this morning that I am indeed always right. Therefore, even though yesterday it may have seemed like I started to lean a bit more to Luke's side and away from Ms. Sorry's, I want to reassure you that I find all this writing of Luke to be very questionable. Hopefully this deposition will help you determine the truth about the letter Luke wrote, the questionable story of Jesus' life.

The Never Confused Always Concerned,
Judge Les Knotyebe

Deposition #5

This deposition contains a "just pretend" interview with the mother at Nain."

--Judge Les Knotyebe, Luke, and Ms. Sorry present.

READ! EXHIBIT E PAGE 6 in your Luke's letter file! (7:11-16)

Judge: "If cow is beef, and pig is pork, why is chicken just chicken? Do we have a witness!?"

Luke: "Mother from Nain, did you and I ever talk about your encounter with Jesus?"

Woman: "Yes, we talked a few years ago. I remember you really wanted to make sure you understood exactly what happened to my son. I remember struggling with some of the medical terms you were using."

Luke: "Oh, I'm sorry, sometimes being a doctor makes it difficult to communicate. Was there any term in particular that you struggled with. Any term that you need me to better define for you?"

Woman: "Yes, 'dead' was a problem."

Judge: "My dear woman, you must know that dead is defined as... well DEAD of course, everyone knows that."

Woman: "I know that you're Honor. That is to say: I thought I knew that. Death has had a huge impact on my family. It was the summer of '16 that my husband died. It was a terrible ordeal; my son had just started to learn our family trade. My husband was a butcher; the whole town knew and loved him. But one morning he didn't wake up. He was dead. And now my son had to learn the family business on his own, we had to go on, on our own.

I don't know if a mother has ever been as proud as I had been of my son- he was just a teenager don't you know. The town rallied around us and he just did a super-duper job, and over the next year he became every bit of the butcher my husband had been. Even more importantly, he had become every bit of the man my husband was. Just like my husband he was the kind of man people loved to be around.

But as I said, I know the word dead. Or at least thought I did. One morning my son didn't wake up. Again, the whole town was devastated. I was so overwhelmed, it all felt so hopeless, it was all I could do to attend another funeral.

But, as the funeral was about to end, the whole town and I walked my son out to the hole we had dug next to my husband... to bury him."

Ms. Sorry: "I don't see how this has anything to do with..."

Judge: "Ms. Sorry we all have mothers that are very dear to us, you will sit down and let this woman speak."

Woman: "Suddenly, this man appeared. Oddly enough, he was approaching town with a crowd nearly as large as the crowd I was apart of. You could feel the difference, our crowd was caught up in death, yet his crowd felt so alive. Just as we were leaving town with my son- in his coffin, everything stopped for a moment, two very different crowds standing there looking at each other. I was crying so hard and so angry at how death had torn apart my family, the whole thing irritated me. Why were these people in our way, in my son's way? Then this man walked up to me, he gently put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'Don't cry.' It was so odd. All of us sort of froze, his eyes seemed so kind, for a moment I almost forgot the funeral. Not only did he seem to understand who I was, but also what I was going through. Then he walked over the coffin, touched it and said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" at that moment, death was redefined for me. Dead was no longer DEAD."

Luke: "Could you tell me who that young man is sitting behind you?"

Woman: "Yes Luke, that's my son Max."

Judge: "My dear woman, you must be mistaken, there must be a misunderstanding here- dead is defined as DEAD for a reason, there is no way..."

Luke: "What was the name of that man, the one who brought your son back to life?"

Woman: "Jesus."

Ms. Sorry: "Objection!"

Judge: "On what grounds?"

Ms. Sorry: "You're always right sir, and as you said, dead is dead sir. There's no bringing back..."

Luke: "But, she is a witness, this is her son, and this crowd- the townspeople of Nain, all of them will testify..."

Judge: "Poultry, chicken is poultry... so is pheasant and duck... lots of kinds of poultry- there's more than one definition? I must think more on this, Court is adjourned."

Read More: Luke 7:11-16

Questions:

1. Has there ever been a moment in your life, when you felt so overwhelmed or hopeless to fight against death or some other kind of major event in your life that you could not control?
2. Is there anyway that God came through for you in that event? If so how? If not, what could he do or have done?
3. When did you start to believe Jesus was who He said he was? (Or if you don't believe- what would it take for you to believe?) What event, what understanding, when was the moment he became your Savior- the friend who would save you from death?
4. What is the difference between using Jesus as fire insurance- as a get out of death free card – and having a personal relationship, actually a friendship with him?

Memory Verse-

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

Luke 9: 23-24

Bonus-

When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"

Luke 7:13-14

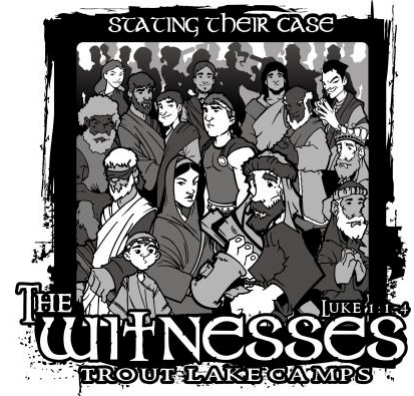
Pray About:

Jesus offers us so much when we open our lives to Him. What is your life a testimony of? Are you the boy now alive? The mother whose life was changed? Or are you a member of the crowd that saw the whole thing? Pray about your testimony? More than that, pray today for an opportunity to share your testimony!

Day 5

T.A.G. Time Along with God

You have been called upon to take part in an amazing task... **you** must decide the **TRUTH**. **You** must decide beyond a reasonable doubt what is **TRUE** and what is **NOT**. **You** have been called upon to fulfill an amazing responsibility as a jury member in the trial of the century, more than that, the trial of the last 20 centuries. Are **you** ready?



Dear Jury Member,
Hopefully this deposition will help you determine the truth about this letter Luke wrote, the story of Jesus' life or something like that.
The Occasionally Thoughtful,
Judge Les Notyebe

Deposition #6

This deposition contains a "just pretend" interview with a real fisherman from the shore crowd.
--Judge Les Knotyebe, Luke, and Ms. Sorry present.

READ EXHIBIT U PAGE 4 in your Luke's letter file!

Judge: "Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana... do we have a witness!?"

Luke: "Have I ever talked to you about your encounter with Jesus?"

Fisherman: "Yes, we talked a few years back, I remember you asking about what happened with Peter that first day we all met Jesus."

Luke: "Please tell the court about your encounter with Jesus?"

Fisherman: "Well, the story really starts the night before. See, Simon, the Zebedee brothers, a few other hired hands like myself was out fishing together. We all worked for the same guy, Frank, he ran *Franks Fish Market* downtown. Well, it was awful. One of the lousiest nights of fishing we'd had in years. We tried our no miss spots- nut'en, new spots- nut'en. Betcha we threw our nets in an' pulled them out a hundred times and we didn't catch a thing. It was ugly. Frank was gonna be mad. So we come back to shore and cleaned our nets and put everything away. Let me tell you, there ain't nut'en more discouraging then washing the nets the next morn'in after come'n up empty. So, we was get'en everything away, an' this guy walks up, with this big crowd followin him, we can see him talkin, and the crowd growin. So the guy asks Peter, I mean Simon, that's what we called him back then. He says, "Can I borrow your boat for a couple hours so I can speak to the people here. Peter, I mean Simon says, "Yeah, sure." So the guy rows out aways, with Simon in the boat- ain't no fisherman gonna just let some guy take his boat. Know what I mean? So, the crowd sits down, I figure I might join'em. I was sick of those nets anyway."

Ms. Sorry: "Your honor, I object, the use of multiple names! Are we talking about some guy named Peter or Simmon?"

Luke: "Jesus gave Simon the name Peter, it's right there in my letter."

Judge: " Umm, yes I remember reading that part. I guess I'll allow it."

Ms. Sorry: "But, but..."

Judge: " I said, I'll allow it. Continue."

Luke: "Thank you sir, but there's more. Tell us the rest Fisherman."

Fisherman: "So when he's done speaking, he prayed and everythin. I remember sittin there, just thinkin about what he'd said. Then I realized that he and Peter, I mean Simon, were going to out sea instead a back to shore. I was like what's go'in on here. This guys trying to steal our boat with Simon still in it! Then, I saw somethin' odder. Peter was throwin his nets out into the water. I got mad. Now I gotta wash up another empty net. So, I sat there with my head down for a couple minutes tryin' to get over myself.

It was then when I heard Simon call to us, "Hey guys! We need your help." When I looked up an see'em pullin at the net. Now Simon's a big guy, know what I mean? He's not gonna have any problems with any net o' fish. But this wasn't just a net with a few fish. It was unbelievable I tell ya.

So we jump into the brother's boat and start rowing out. As we get closer, I sees two things. One was what looked like a thousand fish tails a flapp'in on top of the water. Peter had pulled the net up close enough to the boat that all them fish were right there. Second thing I noticed was that their boat was start'en to sink on accounts there's so many fish. I ain't never seen anything like that before. And we're talk'in calm seas here.

So we starts load'in our boat too, all of us laughing and screaming and carrying on.

It was then I saw Simon, he was down on his hands and knees in front of the speaker guy. Well, you know who that was. It was Jesus.

I could hear Simon say, "Go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man."

I sat there trying to figure this all out. Simon had already figured it out. He always had a better mind for figur'in then the rest of us. He understood, this man, this Jesus was the Messiah. He was God's own son. Who else could fill our nets, fill two boats with fish like they'd never been filled before.

So Jesus says, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." What ever that meant?

So we're rowing the boats back to shore right, it was tough duty I can tell you. I was shocked. I couldn't believe our luck, where'd all those fish come from?

So on the way in I'm a thinkin 'bout how happy Frank's gonna be! I'm thinkin about all the money these fish are going to get us.

But, when we hit the shore, Jesus gets out of the boat, followed by Simon. Then they just start walk'en away. I'm think'en they are leav'en all the work for us to do. But they just keep on leaven us.

I'm standing there yelling at Simon's back, "Simon what're you doing man. We gotta get all these fish to Frank. We're rich men." But, he don't even turn around.

So were all talking about it, the guys in the other boat heard Simon's story. How Jesus told him to fish right there... I could tell this guy's no fisherman. How in the world did he know that?

It was then that it hit me, well I guess you can say it hit all of us.

If this Jesus guy can do this, this is the kind of man we wanted to follow.

The kind of man *I* wanted to follow.

So we left all those fish right there.

And I can tell you this Judge. It was the best choice I made in my life.

I went from being a lowly fisherman with a few fish in his boat. To a fisher of men, a guy that walks the world telling everyone he can find who Jesus is- the Son of the Living God.

Do you hear what I am saying. It was like my name was changed to Manfisher.

Luke: "Your Honor. That's why I wrote this letter. When you know Him, all you want to do is tell others about him. No matter what you think of Jesus' life story. It's true, it's real. Just as this Manfisher testified."

Judge: *"Luke, my Dad always said, 'Give me ambiguity or give me something else.' But, maybe this Jesus you wrote about, is the something else my Dad was talking about. Could there really be someone else?
Well, ah, <cough, cough> court adjourned!"*

Dear Jury Member,

A fascinating story wouldn't you say? I hope this helps in your deliberations today.

The Somewhat Interested,

Judge Les Notyebe

Questions:

1. What do you think happened to all those fish? Would you have been able to leave them or would you have tried to take them in to Frank no matter what?
2. Do you think the fisherman got richer following Jesus or poorer following Jesus?
3. What would you have done?
4. am·bi·gu·i·ty means - a situation in which something can be understood in more than one way. The Judge had been taught that anything works, it doesn't matter what's true and what's not true, what's exactly right and what just kinda would almost work. Yet, Luke's letter offers one truth above all others- his letter has no ambiguity when it comes to Jesus and who he was. What do you think that truth is?
5. Do we ever force our ambiguity on the Gospel story? How?

Memory Verse-

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.
Luke 5: 10-11

Bonus Verse-

He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.

John 1:7

Read More:

Luke 5:1-11

Pray About:

Is there ambiguity in your walk with Jesus, or do you have a clear understanding of your relationship with Him? Pray for clarity- for the one thing you need to set your mind on.