

A Story That Needs to Be Told

2 Peter 1:16 (NIV) For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

- ✓ The Christian faith is based on the **identity** of a single individual – Jesus of Nazareth.

Luke 1:1-4 (NIV) Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

³ 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, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

- ✓ The Christian faith rises or falls on the **reliability** of the Gospels.

Luke 9:18-20 (NIV) Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” ¹⁹ 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.” ²⁰ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

- ✓ Who you come to believe Jesus is to you **personally** will determine if or how you follow Him.

Luke 9:23-26 (NIV) Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

- ✓ Following Jesus will require something **of you** and will require something **from you**.