

**Series: “The Event”** What will you believe?

## **The Evidence of Prediction**

### **Welcome & Prayer**

Good morning church! I want to welcome you to Park Chapel & to our new series, “**The Event**”. So, please join us over the next several weeks leading up to Easter as we examine the “Evidence” of our most reliable witnesses surrounding the Crucifixion of Jesus.

Today we’re are going to spend our time & study on “**The Evidence of Prediction**”, or “**Prophecy**”. But, before we do that, let’s spend some time in prayer before God.

Prayer...

### **Introduction: “Evidence & Doubt”**

(Jesus Sightings) etc...

On May 13 2006 Donna Lee was cooking a batch **easter pierogi**, and as she flipped one over she noticed burn markings that took on an image the image of Jesus. She saw Jesus in her Easter meal. She was moved by this for just a minute. She then placed her pierogi in the freezer and later that evening, put her item up for bid on ebay where it sold for a remarkable \$1775.00



A similar story happened in Miami Florida in 1994 when a woman was making a grilled cheese sandwich and after taking a bite into it notice what she called a vision of the Virgin Mary. She froze her sandwich and kept it for 10 years before selling it 2004 on ebay for a whopping \$28,000.00

You know we wrestle so much with doubt, that we find ourselves looking around every corner for evidence to support our faith.



**Evidence. Evidence. Evidence...** We love these shows on TV! Shows like “The Event”, “Bones”, “C.S.I.”, “House”... and the list could go on and on. These shows play to our human nature as skeptics. We doubt and so in that doubt, nothing pleases our minds more than “evidence” and “proof”.

You and I have two conflicting emotions that dominate our interpretation of any given event. **These conflicting emotions are “Faith” and “Reason”.** Some of you who may be new to christianity, have some major doorways of “doubt” to walk through.

“Isn’t the Bible just another book?” Doubt.

or, “How can a loving God give permission for suffering?” Doubt.

**And we who have been christians, for a number of years, know that, even in the middle of our ‘greatest days’, we live on this continuum of skepticism and doubt.** Difficult times come our way and we... doubt.

I want us to look at a small scene that includes Mary Magdalene, a girl who found herself in the “inner-circle” of Jesus’ ministry. Let’s watch her together and keep in mind our propensity for doubt.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.

John 20:1-2

Now let’s just stop right there. **Let’s begin to unpack this case study.** Because, what is happening? Mary has come and presented **physical evidence.** There’s an empty tomb.

And she has already come to some conclusions based on that evidence.

**Grave-robbing.**

Now let’s hang on. It’s not a ludicrous suggestion because during that time grave-robbing was a capital offense. It was possible, and to Mary’s reasonable mind, this is most likely what happened.

In contrast to this I want us to look at verse 8 and watch John,

“Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.”

John 20:8

Now Danny will spend all of next week on “The Empty Tomb” but today we needed to peak in and see just this small scene and the contrasting reactions of Mary & John because they speak volumes into or own daily struggles with Reason, & Faith, and Doubt.

So as we study this “Event”, as we look into the the crucifixion & and the resurrection of Jesus over then next several weeks, and examine the evidence our prayers will be that you will be able to tap into the nature of personality of John who “saw and believed.”

## The Evidence of Prediction

Briefly today let’s take a look at The evidence of Prediction.

Throughout the life and teachings of Jesus we hear him saying... **“This was done so that the prophesy... would be fulfilled.”** So as you and I listen in and watch Jesus... in these historical narratives, we have to stop and take note of his **holistic awareness!** There is this beautiful poetry found in God’s word, the prophets, and in Jesus, ... who is called **The Word.**

So as...

\* John, “The Baptist”, says: **“Behold, the lamb of God!”** Jesus lives it.

\* Jesus studies **“Jonah, & the great fish”**, it’s deeper meanings reverberate.

So let’s explore prophesy for just a minute. **Look at this list.**

A few Old Testament Prophecies & The Crucifixion of Christ		
Psalm 41:9	Betrayed by a friend who eats with him	Matthew 26:30
Zech 11:12	Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Matthew 26:14
Zech 11:13	Disposition of betrayal money	Matthew 27:3
Zech 13:7	Forsaken by disciples	Matthew 26:59
Psalm 35:11	Accused by false witnesses	Matthew 26:59
Isaiah 53:7	Silent before accusers	Matthew 27:14
Isaiah 50:6	Spat upon	Matthew 26:67
Micah 5:1	Stricken	Matthew 26:67
Isaiah 50:6	Scourged	Matt 27:26
Isa 52:14	Face beaten	Matt 27:30
Isa 50:6	Humiliated	Mark 15:17
Psalm 22:15	Physical exhaustion	Luke 23:26
Psalm 22:16	Crucified 700 yrs before its invention	Luke 23:33
Isaiah 53:12	Identified with sinners	Mark 15:27
Psalm 22:6-8	Object of scorn and ridicule	Luke 23:35
Psalm 22:15	Experienced thirst	John 19:28
Psalm 69:21	Given vinegar to drink	Matthew 27:48
Psalm 38:11	Friends stand far away	Luke 23:49

## A few Old Testament Prophecies & The Crucifixion of Christ

Psalm 22:17	Stared at	Luke 23:35
Psalm 22:18	Clothing divided by persecutors	John 19:23
Psalm 22:18	Lots cast for robe	John 19:23
Amos 8:9	Darkness at noon	Matthew 27:45
Psalm 22:1	Cry of separation from God	Matthew 27:46
Psalm 109:4	Pray for persecutors	Luke 23:34
Psalm 22:31	Cry of victory	John 19:30
Psalm 31:5	Voluntary release of spirit	Luke 23:46
Psalm 34:20	No bones broken	John 19:32
Zech 12:10	Pierced in the side	John 19:34
Psalm 22:14	Death by a broken heart	John 19:34
Isaiah 53:9	Buried in a rich man's grave	Matthew 27:57
Psalm 16:10	Resurrection	Mark 16:6
Psalm 68:18	Ascension	Acts 1:9
Psalm 110:1	Exalted to the right hand of God	Mark 16:19
Psalm 110:4	Serve as a high priest	Hebrews 6:20
Psalm 2:1-2	Continue to be despised by the nations	1 John 5:19

I've given you just a few prophecies here, there are so many more. You've heard me speak of Abraham & Isaac, the writings of Moses, & the cultural practices of the Hebrews, but we have teachers throughout history from different countries and cities and writing literal prophecies being fulfilled. We have...

Zechariah (518 BC) who's name means "God Remembers".

David, King of Israel (1000 BC)

Micah "Who is God like" (721 BC)

Amos & Isaiah (750 BC)

Listen to this scripture in Isaiah...

Remember the things I have done in the past.

For I alone am God!

I am God, and there is none like me.

Only I can tell you the future

before it even happens.

Everything I plan will come to pass,

for I do whatever I wish.

I will call a swift bird of prey from the east—

a leader from a distant land to come and do my bidding.

I have said what I would do,

and I will do it.

Isaiah 46:9-11

So when it comes to **examining “The Evidence of Prediction”**, and our natural **inclination to doubt**, this **is** awesome! Prophecy is a great place to start our series: “The Event” What will you believe?

## **In the Words of Jesus**

Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus said, “Listen, we’re going up to Jerusalem, where all the predictions of the prophets concerning the Son of Man will come true. He will be handed over to the Romans, and he will be mocked, treated shamefully, and spit upon. They will flog him with a whip and kill him, but on the third day he will rise again.”

But they didn’t understand any of this. The significance of his words was hidden from them, and they failed to grasp what he was talking about.

Luke 18:31-34

Listen to this in Matthew 12...

For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:40

& In John...

But the Jewish leaders demanded, “What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.”

“All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

“What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?”

But when Jesus said “this temple,” he meant his own body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

John 2:18-22

**Bottom line:** What Jesus said would happen to him, happened.

Regardless of where you are on your spiritual journey, whether you are a “long-time” Christian who has lost interest in growing at all, or a “new vibrant” Christ follower who is looking for Jesus in every “grilled cheese” sandwich that you make, I want to close this morning with this question. “**What are you putting your faith in?**” Will you arrive **approach this “Event” like Mary** who’s

mind at that time couldn't comprehend the larger and more glorious ways of God. Her faith was in "common" sense. It wasn't bad, it was natural for her. She didn't know. Or will you **approach this "Event" like John**. You see John brings to this grave... a faith that can only come from God. Comfortably place your faith in the words of Jesus Christ. He not only said it, He did it, and He fulfilled it.

**In the Evidence of Prediction**, we know the prophecies of Jesus and his "**First coming**" but as the story continues today, many of those same Biblical prophets, including Jesus himself, tell the story of his **Second coming** as well. Let's be eagerly awaiting this day.

### **Communion Prep:**

Standing on a London street corner, G.K. Chesterton was approached by a newspaper reporter. "Sir I understand that you recently became a Christian. May I ask you one question?" "Certainly," replied Chesterton.

"If the risen Christ suddenly appeared at this very moment and stood behind you, what would you do?" Chesterton looked the reporter squarely in the eye and said. "He is."

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection."

Philippians 3:10

"And it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I live in the flesh, I live by faith in the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20

### **Benediction:**

"The LORD bless you  
and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26