

In this week's episode of think like a detective, we are confronted with the unreliable reliability of eyewitness accounts. We are asked to look critically at these four questions to see whether or not the eyewitness passes the "eyewitness test".

Where they really there?
Can they be verified?
Have they changed their story over time?
Do they possess a bias?

I am reminded of what many people call the eye test. There are multiple definitions of what someone means when they say this: observe, there is the eye test performed with the Snellen eye chart where you and I would stand 1 meter away from the chart and read the letters corresponding to each line. There is the eye test that law enforcement uses to determine whether or not a person is intoxicated (had to look this one up, not from experience :-P). Then there is the slang version of a person saying something doesn't pass the eye test where their words don't quite match their actions (usually an athlete saying he is good to play, but his body tells another story).

Our eyes tell us multitudes of information which is why the eyewitness account of an event is so important. Each time in scripture when we encounter an eyewitness like Luke or Peter we must put them through the eyewitness test. Each time we should find that they were in fact eyewitnesses, therefore their testimony can be trusted. For most of us, we have been lied to or duped into believing someone's word when we shouldn't. Whether we like to admit it or not, these types of events take their toll on our ability to trust. This often trickles down to our ability to rely on even God's word. May it never be with us! If eyewitnesses can't possess a bias then neither should we. Take a moment and thank God for his Divine Word, for the eyewitness accounts in it, and for his gift of sending Jesus for all humanity to have a chance at eternal life.