

# CHRISTMAS AT THE MOVIES

## Believing is Seeing

Luke 1:1-4 & John 20:24-29

In **The Santa Clause**, the unbelieving Scott Calvin is suddenly thrust into becoming the new Santa Claus when he accidentally knocks off Santa and unwittingly puts on his red coat. The next year is spent grappling with the evidence that he really is Santa Claus... and convincing others of the same.

## Defining Faith

*"Now **faith** is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."*

Hebrews 11:1

**Biblical faith is not blind faith but active trust  
in response to the evidence.**

## Responding to Evidence

"Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works – a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate... had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold..."

Flavius Josephus, Roman historian (1<sup>st</sup> C A.D.)

Even without the New Testament, we'd still know that...

- Jesus lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar.
- He lived a virtuous life.
- He was a 'wonder worker'.
- He had a brother named James.
- He was proclaimed the Messiah by many.
- He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
- He was crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover.
- Darkness and an earthquake occurred when he died.
- His disciples believed he rose from the dead.
- His disciples were willing to die for their beliefs.
- His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshipped Jesus as God.

## Active Trust

*"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who **have not seen and yet have believed.**"*

John 20:29

**Seeing isn't believing. Believing is seeing.**

*"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though **you do not see him now, you believe in him** and are filled with an **inexpressible and glorious joy**, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls."*

1 Peter 1:8-9