

I hear the voices of Robert Downey Jr.' and Jude Law when I read it, though it was not included in any of their movies, ...yet.

"I could hardly imagine a more damning case," I remarked. "If ever circumstantial evidence pointed to a criminal it does so here."

"Circumstantial evidence is a very tricky thing," answered Holmes thoughtfully.

"It may seem to point very straight to one thing, but if you shift your own point of view a little, you may find it pointing in an equally uncompromising manner to something entirely different.

It must be confessed, however, that the case looks exceedingly grave against the young man, and it is very possible that he is indeed the culprit. There are several people in the neighborhood, however, and among them Miss Turner, the daughter of the neighboring landowner, who believe in his innocence, and who have retained Lestrade, whom you may recollect in connection with 'A Study in Scarlet', to work out the case in his interest. Lestrade, being rather puzzled, has referred the case to me, and hence it is that two middle-aged gentlemen are flying westward at fifty miles an hour instead of quietly digesting their breakfasts at home."

"I am afraid," said I, "that the facts are so obvious that you will find little credit to be gained out of this case."

"There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact," he answered, laughing. "Besides, we may chance to hit upon some other obvious facts which may have been by no means obvious to Mr. Lestrade. You know me too well to think that I am boasting when I say that I shall either confirm or destroy his theory by means which he is quite incapable of employing, or even of understanding. To take the first example to hand, I very clearly perceive that in your bedroom the window is upon the right-hand side, and yet I question whether Mr. Lestrade would have noted even so self-evident a thing as that."

"How on earth -- "

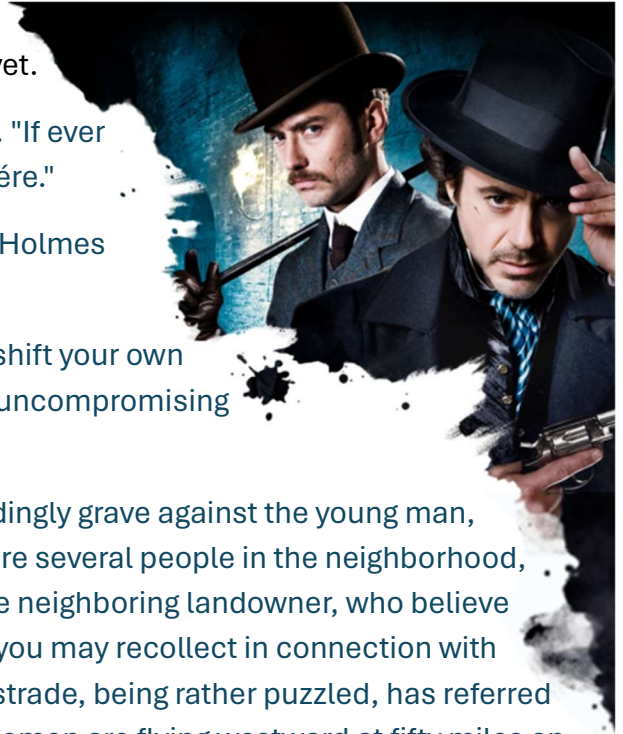
"How on earth, indeed! ... if ever circumstantial evidence pointed to a criminal ..."

So, if the world can use "circumstantial evidence" to point to a criminal, we should certainly be able to use it to point others to our Savior.

It was great to see you all Thursday night!

Looking forward to next week when we will "Hang on Every Word" and "Separate Artifacts from Evidence"!

Oh, see below a 'circumstantial' case that came just a little too close to home for Jaclyn and I.



Infamous Conviction Based on Circumstantial Evidence

The Scott Peterson Murder Conviction

Laci Peterson, a 27-year-old mother-to-be, went missing from her Modesto, California home on Christmas Eve 2002. Husband Scott Peterson reported Lacy missing, telling police that she simply was nowhere to be found when he returned from a fishing trip that day. Days and weeks went by with no suspects. Friends and family said they didn't believe Scott would murder his wife, but he eventually became a suspect, as he began giving police inconsistent information.



In January, police discovered that Scott had engaged in several affairs, the most recent being with a woman named Amber Frey. Frey approached police after learning Scott was married to the missing pregnant woman. Soon after, police taped phone calls between Frey and Scott in hopes they would hear a confession. The only thing they learned from the taped conversations was that Scott had planned on taking Frey out of the country on vacation, only days after Laci went missing.

Laci's body, and the body of a fetus, were found in April of 2003, washed up on shore in Richmond, California. This was the same shoreline where Scott reported going fishing the day Laci disappeared. After discovering the bodies, police searched Scott's truck, his boat, and his home, as well as the area where they believed Laci's body had been dumped, but nothing turned up.

On April 18, 2003, San Diego police arrested Scott. He had altered his looks and had belongings on him that led police to believe he would flee the country. The media closely followed the subsequent murder trial, in which there was virtually no direct evidence, but a long string of circumstantial evidence pointing to Scott Peterson's guilt. Such evidence included the inconsistencies in Scott's stories, his admitted affair with Frey, the fact that he sold Laci's car soon after she disappeared, that he had expressed an interest in selling the house right away, and a 6-inch long, dark hair found on a pair of pliers located in his boat.

Although the defense attempted to explain away each piece of circumstantial evidence, the jury was convinced that Scott Peterson had murdered his wife and unborn child. Peterson received the death penalty and awaits execution in California's San Quentin prison.

(Story found here: <https://legaldictionary.net/circumstantial-evidence/>)

We apparently take circumstantial evidence so seriously that it can be used to convict a man of murder and earn him the death penalty.

Thankfully, all the direct and circumstantial evidence piled up against each of us that would result in our own spiritual death penalty, will never be able to *"separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* - Romans 8:38-39