

CRUCIFORMITY

life as jesus intended

Part 8: *Truth or Consequences*

INTRODUCTION – Mind The Gap

WHEN READING THE BIBLE, BE MINDFUL OF THE GAPS BETWEEN US AND THE TEXT...

1. The language gap.
2. The culture gap.
3. The history gap.
4. The literature gap.
5. The audience gap.

EXEGESIS = from the Greek for “explanation”; to get the right meaning out of a text.

John 1:18

EISEGESIS = reading into Scripture a meaning not intended by the author.

HERMENEUTICS = the principles used to properly exegete Scripture.

Exegetical/Hermeneutical Mistakes...

1. OVER MORALIZING (Turning narrative into moral example without regard for context)
2. OVER SYMBOLIZING (Turning history into allegory)
3. OVER PERSONALIZING (Making everything about ME first, Jesus second)

Healthy Hermeneutics...

1. Choose your Bible intentionally and intelligently. Use more than one when possible.
 - a. Translation (e.g., NASB-U; TNIV; NLT)
 - b. Study helps (e.g., TNIV Study Bible; NLT Life Application Bible; etc.)
2. Immerse yourself in the wisdom of community.
 - a. In person (e.g., Home Church, Teachers, Pastors, Mentors, etc.)
 - b. In print (e.g., Commentaries, Bible Dictionaries, and other books)
 - c. Other media (e.g., podcasts, audio Bibles, etc.)
3. Learn the Grand Context, the Big Picture, the Meta-narrative (e.g., see last week)
4. For every passage ask...
 - a. Where does this passage fit into the Meta-narrative?
 - b. What is its immediate context?
 - c. What genre is this passage/book?
 - d. What was the intended meaning of this passage to its original audience? (“A text cannot mean what it never meant.” ~ Gordon D. Fee)
 - e. How does this passage point to or enlighten our understanding of Jesus?
 - f. What are the transferable principles for our context today?
 - g. Are there other biblical principles that shed light on this passage?
 - h. How does this challenge me personally? What course correction should I make? How should this change how I get up in the morning? What would align my life more with Jesus?
5. Interact with the text in different ways.
 - a. Read out loud.
 - b. Underline and/or circle key text, write notes in margins, use symbols.
 - c. Journal your thoughts and discoveries.
6. Pray conversationally (i.e., read, pray, read, pray, etc.) through the passage.
7. Meditate on one key idea.
8. Immediately set out to apply what you’ve learned.

CONCLUSION – Exegeting God

John 1:18

FOR FURTHER STUDY (TMH TEACHING)...

- *The Irreligious Life; Scripture Scandals; God’s Library*

FOR FURTHER STUDY (BOOKS)...

- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth (Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart)*
- *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics (Graeme Goldsworthy)*

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Review last week’s message first. In your own words, and in less than 60 seconds, try summarizing the story of the Bible.
2. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, talk about what most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read **Psalm 3**. Together, walk through steps #4-6 listed above. Then, with #7 in mind, talk about one thing you can apply in your life this week.
4. Repeat the steps in question #3 with **Acts 15:1-35** or **1 Corinthians 11:1-16** or any other passages.

SO WHAT?...

5. How is this approach different/similar to your usual approach to studying the Bible? What changes do you think you may keep? Commit to asking each other next week how your renewed Bible study efforts are going.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, January 27, 2008