**For All It’s Worth:** Building Blocks of a Biblical Life

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| 06.14.15 | Grace | Part 3 | Passage | We study the B to be more like Jesus. | 35 Min |

**Introduction:**

Attn: **Blind woman who loved the Bible**. May we love God’s word b/c we love God.

Them: Continuing our series “For all it’s worth.” This is the grounding for our church.

Relv: For all people who study the Bible = sharpening our skills is always necessary.

Struct: 3 Building blocks of a biblical life. You’ve heard before, be reminded again.

**Begin your study of the Bible in Prayer:** Ask God to move and make it alive (PRAY)

* **Give a sample of what to pray**: God, I submit to you | Search me | Open my eyes to search you | Convict me of what must change | encourage me in your love

**Observation:** To get the most out of God’s Word, Pay Attention to the Details

**Observation** can be described **as the act of taking notice**, **fixing the mind upon, beholding with attention** and (as in science) making record of one's findings.

* Psalm 119:18, **“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”** **Observation is beyond seeing to perceiving**. Answering specific questions:
  + **To who, by whom:** understand the authorship and the context.
  + **What was he trying to say**: Put into your own words to understand it today.
  + **Why was he trying to say it**: Help understand why they needed to be taught.
* **You are seeking to place yourself in the writer's "sandals", setting aside any preconceived ideas**, with the ultimate goal being to understand the writer's original intent, and God's intent which goes beyond even the human writer. Jesus sandals
* **We live in a fast paced world,** honing the skill of observation is not natural for us. We want answers fast and loathe to linger to long. Ill: Fast food vs. good meal.

**TWO PREREQUISITES  For Productive Applying the Bible to Life**

(1) **Willingness to slow down** – Something’s take time, seem reparative. That is okay. Louie Giglio’s one word Bible Study – impactful when you are willing to take the time.

(2) **Desire to carefully observe what the passage is literally saying unbiased by prior experience**. Too often we read back into the Bible things that are not really there. Ill: Pop Quiz: **Are these in the Bible?** (A-1) We must be diligent to observe.

* **Yogi Berra** once said, “**You can see a lot  just by looking.”**
* **Frankly, what better object to linger upon lovingly and long, than the eternal Word of Truth**, the very revelation from the Creator to His creatures! We must not let His precious Word "bore" us! We need to learn & practice the art of observation.
* [**Martin Luther**](http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/biographies/martin-luther-lessons-from-his-life-and-labor) whom God used to return His church to a Sola Scriptura approach (only the Scriptures), which birthed the Reformation, described what in essence is an inductive approach to Bible study when he said “(A-2)”. Requires diligence & effort.
* **A T Pierson** a well-known 19th century preacher once wrote this comment regarding a passage he was studying, “When I read this passage for the 100th time, the following idea came to me.” So here we see this great seasoned student of the Scripture saying "I've got to read it repeatedly and the more I read it the more I observe." That's the genius of the Word of God and why it is unlike any other book.

**Interpretation:** Rely on the Holy Spirit to Reveal the Meaning

**You’ve heard this called interpretation =** finding the original meaning.

* **Webster defines interpretation as “explaining or telling the meaning of something and presenting it in understandable terms”**.
* **A synonym for “Biblical interpretation” is “hermeneutics,” which is derived from the name of the pagan god Hermes who brought messages from the pagan gods to mortals, "translating" them as it were**. The related Greek verb [***hermeneuo***](http://preceptaustin.org/hebrews_71-3.htm#translation) is the science (and art) of interpretation, in this case, of the Bible.
* **It is not just about finding something that is meaningful to us, but it is finding what the true *meaning* of it** is and then finding ways to apply it. For it to be infallible truth there is only one meaning but can be many different applications.
* **Neh. 8:8,** (explain context) **“They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.”**

**The Goal of Interpretation:** Think God’s Thoughts After Him

* "﻿Meaning﻿” is not our **subjective** thoughts read into the text but God's **objective** truth read out of the text. It is to “﻿think God﻿’s thoughts after Him."
* **God used human authors to capture His thoughts, working through their personalities, their circumstances, and their concerns**, the Holy Spirit superintended the crafting of a document. God's coauthors, we might call them.
* **2 Peter 1:20, “no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”**
  + **Nothing was originated by man**: the Gk. Word here *ginomai* in its most common sense, as meaning “come into existence”. God brought it to be.
  + **The HS was the active and revealing agent to bring scripture to be.**

**We keep one foot in both worlds**: Observation: original, Application: our world

* **Once you know what the passage means (**[**interpretation**](http://www.preceptaustin.org/the_key_inductive_study_(pt2).htm)**), you are responsible to put it into practice in your own life.** Accurate interpretation and correct application rest on the accuracy of your observations.
* **Too much Bible study begins and ends in the wrong place...with interpretation**. Begins with “discussing the Bible and what it means” without ever actually observing the Bible (i.e. Book clubs, etc.). It Ends with, “Well now that we know what it means, let’s move on to find more meaning” and never applying it.
* Interpretation should build on **observation** and then lead into **interpretation**. It is a means to an end, not an end in itself. Don’t be half-pregnant on passages.

**Remember that interpretation is the bridge between observation and application.** Accurate interpretation is not only possible but it is crucial lest we inappropriately apply the Bible, acting on what God has said assumes that you understand what He has said.

* HCYKWWJDIYDKWJD—We must know what the bible says in order to live it.

**Application:** Put to action the truth you discovered.

**You’ve heard this called, and commonly known as APPLICATION**

* The dictionary defines **application** as “the act of putting to use or putting into operation especially for some practical purpose.” Homeless man looking at food bk
* Zedekiah brought Jeremiah from prison and asked in **Jer 37:17, “Is there any word from the Lord?”**—We do this in desperation, yet God is clear. **Taste & See**
* **Application** is putting truth you've discovered (through observation and interpretation) to use in your life with the ultimate goal of transformation Bible study is meant not merely to inform but to transform/renew our mind. (Ro 12:2)
* **Application** answers, “**How change does this passage call for in my life?”**
  + Note that the question is not, “Is this truth relevant to my life?” The truth of God's Word is always relevant to our life (Heb 13:5). The more honest question is, “Am I ready and willing believe this truth and to apply it in my life?”
* **Application** takes place when you’re confronted with truth and you respond to that truth in obedience (in faith).  It begins with **belief**  and ends with **being** & **doing**.

**Our Bible Study must not just for information, but for transformation**

* Jas 1:23-25, **“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”**
* The goal of Bible study is not simply to determine **what it says** and **what it means**, but in the final analysis to apply it to one's life. **If we fail to apply Scripture, we cut short the entire process and have not finished what God wants us to do.**
  + **I do this for you each week**: sermon notes, outline, study guide, layered application, closing statements, preaching point, mini series, titles, response card
    - **Being exposed to sound Bible teaching automatically solves problems**. Bible instruction alone will not result in instant solutions to problems. No matter how reliable the teaching or how gifted the teacher, the declaration of truth does not provide the removal of difficulties.
  + **You do this for yourself each week**: listening carefully, studying the passage in advance, looking at it after, coming with a pen, taking notes, using the outline, finding other material to edify your soul, daily quiet time, small group etc.

**We study Bible, not to be more comfortable, smarter, better looking sinners, but to be more like our Savior**

APPENDIX:

**A-1 Pop Quiz: Are these things in the bible?**

1. **“This, too, shall pass.”** (Answer: No from Persian poetry)
2. **“Cleanliness is next to godliness.”** (Answer: No from the Talmud)
3. **“Money is the root of all evil.”** (Answer: No but told to not be lovers of $)
4. **“God will not give you more than you can handle.”** (Answer: No, but we are told that he will help us in times of temptation 1 Cor 10:13)
5. **“God loves those who help themselves”** (Answer: No from ancient Greek lit)
6. **“Love the sinner, hate the sin”** (Answer: No from St. Augustine)
7. **“God works in mysterious ways.”** (Answer: No, Bono)

A-2 Martin Luther Quote:

 “I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf. I shake the Bible as a whole, like shaking the whole tree[**Context**]. Then I shake every limb—study book after book [**Overview of Book**]. Then I shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters when they do not break the sense [**Observation of Chapters**]. Then I shake every twig, or a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences and words and their meanings [G**reek/Hebrew Word Studies**]."