



6: How Do We READ It RIGHT? (Part 3)

Today we discover the 3rd rule of how we read the Bible right:

View Scripture Through Scripture.

The Scriptures offer real life examples, give us clarity when it's confusing, & show us the character of our Creator.

beourguest

Thanks so much for joining us today! Please register your visit using this CR Code **Connect Card** ➡

teachingnotes

Follow today's teaching notes on your digital device (**wi-fi: Worship Center Guest**).

1. **Open phone camera** & zoom in on the **QR code pic to the right**. **OPEN** our VISUAL NOTES.
2. Access PDF notes to teachings from: **bit.ly/PDFNotes**
3. Watch **FB Live & see teaching notes** on our FB page: **facebook.com/fellowshipofmadison**
4. Check out our webpage: **FOM.life** (including over 560 teachings - audio & video).

CONNECT CARD



VISUAL NOTES

RULE #1: Never read a Bible verse.

When you only hear a **PIECE** of the story, you might not get the **POINT** of the story. **Context** is the **KEY** to **understanding** what the text **means**. Read everything surrounding the verse, not just the verse.

RULE #2: Author & Audience before Application.

We must remember that the Scriptures weren't written **TO US**, but the Scriptures were written **FOR US**.

- **Cultural Differences:** Place ourselves in **THEIR** context instead of transporting them to **OUR** CONTEXT.
- **Literary Differences:** Read the Bible like we do the sports page - trying to understand the intent of the author. **POETRY, HISTORY, and METAPHORS** are meant to be read differently.

RULE #3: View Scripture Through Scripture

1. The Scriptures give us real life examples.

Matthew 18:15-20: Confront, discipline, & restore the sinful brother/sister.

What's that look like in real life? See **confront** & **discipline** 1 Cor. 5:1-5 & **restoration** in 2 Cor. 2:5-11.

2. The Scriptures give us clarity when it's confusing.

Some parts of the Bible that are tough to interpret. When we come to these areas we should...

🔍 **Read what is UNCLEAR in light of what IS CLEAR.**

- **Example:** Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And **he will do even greater works than these**, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12 CSB)

NO ONE - including the apostles - did **GREATER MIRACLES** than Jesus. The apostles never walked on water nor raised someone from the dead after 4 days. We don't see them again feed over 5000 with a boy's lunch. These **greater works** cannot refer to greater *quality*, but greater *quantity*. Jesus could only be in one place at one time, but the apostles & their disciples would take the gospel to the planet in the power of the Spirit. They would certainly do great miracles, as we see in Acts.

While Jesus had several hundred follow Him, the apostles participate in watching over 3000 bow their knees to King Jesus (something that never happened while He walked the earth)! This is greater in *quantity*, not quality. Jesus had taken His message to Israel, but later used His disciples to take His message (and miracles) to the world (Acts 1:8), by the indwelling and empowering of the Spirit (as seen in Acts). The "greater works", while at times accompanied by miracles, are now **MILLIONS** of saved souls!

🔍 **Recognize what is described vs prescribed.** Many times the Scripture is *DESCRIBING* what **THEY DID DO**, without *PRESCRIBING* what **WE SHOULD DO**.

- **Example:** David & Solomon had many wives. Is that what God told them to do? **NOPE**. It is **NOT** *PRESCRIBING* what we **SHOULD DO**, but *DESCRIBING* what they **DID DO**.

3. The Scriptures reveal the Character of our CREATOR.

Throughout the Scripture we see God **bringing JUDGEMENT & extending MERCY**.

OLD TESTAMENT

God brings **JUDGEMENT** against the enemies who fought against His people, but God also extends **MERCY** by sparing people who deserve judgement.

JONAH

God sends Jonah on a month-long journey to his arch-enemies in Nineveh, the Assyrian empire (over 600 miles away). Jonah brings a message of **JUDGEMENT**, but when the people turn from their sin, God spares the whole city (**MERCY**)!

JERICHO

God destroys Jericho & everyone there (**JUDGEMENT**), but GOD rescues all of Rahab's family (Heb 11:30-31). She's later in the family tree of Jesus as one of his great great great great grandmothers (see Matt. 1:5)! (**MERCY**)

GOD DESTROYS WORLD WITH FLOOD

God destroys Noah's generation in the flood (**JUDGEMENT**), but God shows **MERCY** to Noah & his family.

NEW TESTAMENT

HUMBLE PROSTITUTES & TAX COLLECTORS VS PRIDEFUL RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Jesus forgives prostitutes & tax collectors who ask for **MERCY**, but Jesus also brings scathing **JUDGEMENT** on religious leaders who reject Him (Matt. 23 & Jn. 8).

PETER DENIES & IS RESTORED. ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA ARE KILLED.

Peter denies that he knows Jesus...3 times! Simon Peter immediately leaves and weeps bitterly in repentance (Mt 26:75). Jesus forgives Simon Peter's denial as Peter repents (**MERCY**), BUT God kills a married couple when they lie to God & His servants (**JUDGEMENT** - Acts 5:1-11).

JESUS

Jesus, the sinless Son of God, is beaten to a bloody pulp and paraded before Romans and Jews like he was the worst of the worst kind of criminal. Jesus dies on the cross as God **JUDGES SIN**, to make full payment for anyone who will turn from their sin and turn to Him for **MERCY**...but the **warning of JUDGEMENT** is attached as well.

John 3:16-18 (CSB) For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that **everyone who believes in Him** will not perish but have **eternal life**. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **Anyone who believes in Him** is not condemned, but **anyone who does not believe** is already condemned, because he has **not believed** in the name of the one and only Son of God.

Jesus - the same one who died on the Cross to offer **MERCY**, will ultimately **JUDGE** those who reject His forgiveness...throwing them into HELL for eternity where they will pay for their sins (**JUDGEMENT**).

Matthew 25:34, 41 (CSB) Then the King will say to those on his right, '**Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you** from the foundation of the world...' Then he will also say to those on the left, '**Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his angels!

This is NOT Bible Buffet. We can't take the part we like - **MERCY** - and leave the part we don't like - **JUDGEMENT**.

So....How can we make sure we read it RIGHT?

1. Never Read a Bible Verse
2. Author & Audience before Application
3. View Scripture Through Scripture.

Applying 3 Rules

John 10:10 (NET) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come so that they may have life**, and may have it abundantly.

RULE #1: Never Read a Bible Verse (Context)

Context: Jesus healed a blind beggar on the Sabbath (Jn 9), spit on the ground and made mud and then rubbed it on the man's eyes. Jesus then told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. **Viewing Scripture THROUGH Scripture**, this is similar to what Elisha did with Naaman - who had leprosy (2 Kgs 5). As Naaman's obedience by dipping in the water resulted in his healing, so too the blind man who washed his eyes from the pool - COULD SUDDENLY SEE! When the neighbors brought the man to the Pharisees and asked how he was healed, he told them about Jesus whom he thought was a prophet (Jn 9:17). The Pharisees refused to believe that Jesus, whom they called a sinner, could have performed a legitimate miracle from God.

John 9:24-25 (NET) Then they summoned the man who used to be blind a second time and said to him, "Promise before God to tell the truth. We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. I do know one thing—that although I was blind, now I can see."

John 9:31-41 (NET) We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but if anyone is devout and does his will, God listens to him. Never before has anyone heard of someone causing a man born blind to see. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They replied, "You were born completely in sinfulness, and yet you presume to teach us?" So **they threw him out.** Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, so he found the man and said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man replied, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus told him, "You have seen Him; He is the one speaking with you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and **he worshiped Him.** Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that those who do not see may gain their sight, and the ones who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and asked him, "We are not blind too, are we?" Jesus replied, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin, but now because you claim that you can see, your guilt remains."

Jesus uses an illustration that everyone of that day would have understood.

RULE #2: Author & Audience before Application

John 10:1-3 (NET) I tell you the solemn truth, **the one** who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but **climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber.** The one who enters by the door is **the shepherd of the sheep.** The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and **the sheep hear his voice.** He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

* Notice who the **thief** and **robber** is - a person who climbs in some other way.

John 10:4-6 (NET) When he has brought all his own sheep out, he goes ahead of them, and **the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice.** They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not recognize the stranger's voice." Jesus told them this parable, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Every believer who knows his/her shepherd should know when it is the good shepherd versus a **stranger** who is a **thief** and **robber.** *HOW?* Sheep are so often near their shepherd that they know his voice.

✗ This passage is NOT teaching that every believer should hear the audible voice of Jesus 2000 years later.

✓ Instead, we should be trusting God's LIVING Word, revealed through the Scriptures.

John 10:7-10 (NET) So Jesus said again, "I tell you the solemn truth, **I am the door for the sheep.** All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.

👁 Permanent sheepfolds were built for shepherds to use at night. Sheepfolds often had thorns put on the top of the walls. The shepherd would *BE THE GATE* - the protector of the sheep.

While many Christians have memorized John 10:10 and think it's contrasting Jesus to the Devil, Jesus has been contrasting Himself, not to the devil, but to **some of the Pharisees** (Jn 9:13-34) who were blind guides who didn't care about the 'sheep'.

John 10:11-15 (NET) **I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not a shepherd and does not own sheep, sees the wolf coming and **abandons the sheep and runs away.** So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. Because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep, he runs away. **I am the good shepherd.** I know my own and my own know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

This **shepherd/sheep language** was KNOWN to the audience. And when we apply...

RULE #3: View Scripture Thru Scripture it will make even more sense!

Ezekiel 34:23-24 (LSB) Then **I will establish over them one shepherd, My servant David,** and he will shepherd them; he will shepherd them himself and be their shepherd. And I, Yahweh, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I, Yahweh, have spoken.

Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy (David was king 400 years before this letter was written). The Scriptures are clear that the Messiah would be in the family lineage of King David, and JESUS was! (Mat. 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9; Mk 10:47-48, 12:35; Lk 18:38-39, 20:41)

John 10:16 (NET) I have other sheep that do not come from this sheepfold. I must bring them too, and **they will listen to my voice, so that there will be one flock and one shepherd.**

* Mormons say this speaks of Jewish people who Jesus visited in the Americas. But when we view Scripture through Scripture we see how many nations & ethnicities follow Jesus (Read **Acts**).

Galatians 3:26-28 (NET) For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female—for all of you are **one in Christ Jesus**.

Paul isn't telling Christians to dismiss the the diversity God has given us - we are still Jew or Greek (Gentile), male & female, employer & employee, but that we are to recognize that we are **ONE in JESUS!**

John 10:17-18 (NET) This is why the Father loves me—because **I lay down my life**, so that I may take it back again. No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down of my own free will. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it back again. This commandment I received from my Father."



✓ **BE GRATEFUL:** Thank Jesus our Good Shepherd, the One who laid down His life for his sheep - including us!

✓ **BE FAITHFUL:** Listen to the voice of Jesus by reading the Scripture right. That is how we judge whether or not other 'voices' are from God or not. All others are imposters. **Are you LISTENING to Him...**or to someone who DID NOT lay down his/her life for you?

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives:** Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? You might need to look back in your notes to help explain your answer.
2. The Bible gives us **real life examples**. Some of these are examples we *SHOULD* follow, while others are examples for us NOT to follow. Name a few we *SHOULD* follow and some we *SHOULD NOT* follow.
3. How does reading what is *CLEAR* help us with passages that are *UNCLEAR*? (Remember our example of John 14:12). How does asking whether this is *DESCRIBED* or *PRESCRIBED* help us with difficult passages?
4. Have you ever heard someone say, "*The Old Testament God is a vengeful God, but the New Testament God is a loving God*"? Discuss some of the examples of *JUDGEMENT* & *GRACE* in the Old and New Testament, and how these might help you point others to the character of our Creator?
5. Restate the **3 Rules of Interpretation**. Which one benefits *you* the most in interpreting Scriptures? Give your reasons.
6. **Read John 9-10:21, Ezekiel 34:23-24, & Galatians 3:36-38**. How do the 3 rules of interpretation help you to better appreciate what Jesus was saying to his audience and claiming about Himself?
7. **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.**