

Lesson 11 Determining the Intended Application of the Biblical Text

“What does this mean **for** me?”

Application is the bridge between the biblical meaning and present-day life situations

Misapplying Scripture is easy to do with the western approach to literature. Our culture wants to read a passage and immediately apply it to our lives. Our concern with productivity spills into our time with the Lord, where we tend to minimize the *metanarrative in search of immediate application. (Looking for OTG)

1. Limited or incomplete view of God. Jeremiah 29:11 put in a graduation card. Romans 8:28 guaranteeing a successful life.
2. Exalted view of self: Philippians 4:13 to focus on personal ambition, Roman 12:2 used to focus us on self-improvement rather than transformation. “If you read a book or attend a study where Scripture is constantly used to focus on yourself, that’s your first clue that something is wrong.
3. Surface level understanding of Scripture:
When we read the bible looking for things to immediately apply, it leads to a surface-level reading of Scripture. The bible is not meant to be read like a self-help book. It is our means of knowing God, how God chose to reveal Himself to us. But to know Him as He chose to reveal Himself, we have to dig into those difficult books and passages that don’t make good Instagram captions. When we take verses out of context, read quickly and only for application, and focus on the “easy” books, we miss out on the full picture of God’s Word.
4. Risk of theological error Jeremiah 29:11 on a graduation card. Romans 12:1-2 we want to find out what His will is first. Romans 8:26-27(groan) and God helps those who help themselves.

5 Missing out on the full meaning of God’s word. (DMR)

Ultimately, misquoting, misusing, and misapplying Scripture causes us to miss out on the full meaning of God’s Word. While none of us will have a perfect understanding of God or His Word this side of heaven, we should be perpetual students of it. As we diligently seek the Lord through Scripture, He grants us His Holy Spirit to understand what we read. That same Spirit teaches us how and when to apply the concepts. We must do more than pick up pithy statements for our mugs and tattoos. We must seek to grasp the fullness of God’s story in humanity. And when we do, we will find a God far greater, grander, sweeter, and better than we ever before imagined.

Psalm 119:11, Psalm 119:105, John 17:17

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*In Christianity, the metanarrative is the overarching story of the Bible that explains the origin, purpose, and destiny of life, often summarized as **Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration**. This grand narrative provides a framework for understanding individual lives and biblical passages, illustrating God’s ongoing plan to redeem and restore His creation.

“The problem with teaching about the ‘heroes and heroines of the Bible’ is that the hero of the Bible is God. All people have flaws, even at their best. We dare not obscure the view of God to elevate human heroes.”
John Walton The Bible Story Handbook

Ruth is not a book on how to deal with your in-laws,
Nehemiah is not a book on leadership

“There is more heresy preached in application than in exegesis.” Haddon Robinson

In application we attempt to take what we believe is the truth of the eternal God, which was given at a particular time and place and situation and apply it to people in the modern world who live in another time, another place, and a very different situation, That is harder than it appears" Haddon Robinson

Augustine: What the bible says, God says.

Context is King: Popular verses many people get wrong.

Judge not!

Matt 7:1-6, John 7:23-24

God will never give you more than you can handle.

1Cor 10:13, 2Cor 1:8-9

1. A _____ heart.

2. A _____ to appropriate the truths of Scripture into our experience.

Our applications should be based directly on the meaning and relevance of the text to its original audience in light of the purpose of the book. "Sound interpretation is the only adequate basis for relevant application."

Book of James Chapter 1

FAITH IN ACTION

I. Introduction 1:1

II. Facing Trials 1:2-18

A. The nature of trials 1:2-4

B. Responding to trials 1:5-8

C. Perspective on trials. 1:9-11

D. Rewards 1:12

F. Understanding the difference between trials and temptations. 1:13-18

1. God is not the author of temptation 1:13

2. The nature of temptation. 1:14-15

3. The nature of God. 1:16-18

III. The Word of God 1:19-27

A. Reception 1:19-21

B. Action 1:22-27