

What About...
Deeper Biblical Study, Interpretation, and Application

Simplistic: Observation, Interpretation, Application

Be aware of your own presuppositions and preunderstandings

- these are our underlying assumptions and attitudes
- we carry these into our own interpretation

The most important aspect of the “Interpretive Journey” is discovering what the original author was saying to the original audience.

- the historical-cultural context
- think of reading Scripture like reading over someone’s shoulder

Observe, Observe, Observe – word repetition, contrasts, comparisons, lists, cause and effect, figures of speech, conjunctions, verbs, pronouns, Q & A, dialogue, means, purpose/result, general to specific and vice versa, conditional clauses, actions/roles of God/people, emotional terms, tone, connections to other paragraphs, shifts and pivots, interchange, chiasm, inclusio

Step 1: Grasping the Text in Their Town

Q: What did the text mean to the original audience?

- study the historical and literary context
- does the passage relate to those above and below?

Step 2: Measuring the Width of the River to Cross

Q: What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

- we are separated by culture, language, situation, time, geography, and often covenant
- note the differences between them and us

Step 3: Crossing the Principlizing Bridge

Q: What is the theological principle in this text?

- the universal theological meaning/message

- should be: reflected in the text; timeless; not culturally bound; correspond with Scripture; be relevant to the biblical and the contemporary audience

Step 4: Consult the Biblical Map

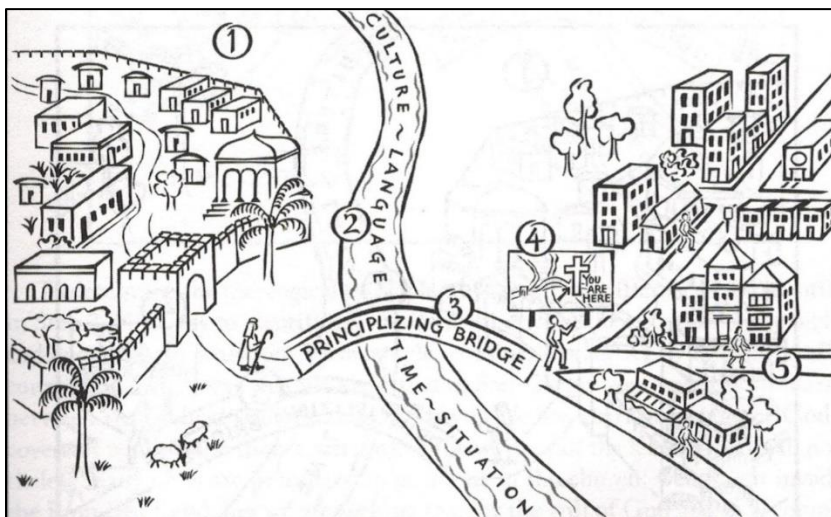
Q: How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

- the “parts-whole” spiral
- what does the NT add or modify the principle?

Step 5: Grasping the Text in Own Town

Q: How should individual Christians today live out the theological principles?

- apply the principle to the specific situation of the individual Christians today
- How should we respond in a “real-life” situation
- there are very few (often 1) principle, but there are numerous applications



Example: Luke 15:11-32 – The ~~Prodigal Son~~ Two Sons
