



Getting the big picture of all of Scripture

Icebreaker

The "Blindfold" Test: Have you ever tried the "Bible Roulette" method of reading the Bible (closing your eyes, flipping to a random page, and pointing)? What was the most confusing or "random" verse you ever landed on?

The Big Picture: Tourist or Miner?

In the sermon, we compared digging for diamonds at a state park with plastic buckets to the **Jwaneng Diamond Mine** in Botswana—the "Prince of Mines." Jwaneng processes 30,000 carats of diamonds every day.

- **Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17.** If all Scripture is "breathed out by God," why do we often settle for a "Verse of the Day" diet instead of "feasting" on the Word?
- What is the danger of having a lot of Bible *knowledge* but no *transformation*? (The "Mean Christian" syndrome).

Tool #1: Context is Crucial

We often hear people quote **Matthew 7:1**, "*Judge not, that you be not judged*," to shut down any kind of moral conversation.

- **The Pericope:** A *pericope* is a "cut-out" scene or a complete unit of thought. Read Matthew 7:1–6.
- How does verse 6 ("*Do not throw your pearls before pigs*") change your understanding of verse 1?
- How can we balance being "non-judgmental" with the need for "spiritual discernment"?

Tool #2: Scripture Explains Scripture

Matthew was a tax collector writing to a **Jewish audience**. He often quoted the Old Testament, assuming his readers would catch the "Easter eggs."

- **Read Matthew 18:15–20.** We often use verse 20 ("*Where two or three are gathered*") to mean Jesus shows up at small group. But looking at the Cross-Reference in Deuteronomy 19:15, what is the *legal* context Jesus is actually talking about?
- How does knowing the "Two or Three Witnesses" rule change how we handle conflict or "judging" others in the church?

Tool #3: The S.O.A.P. Method

To move from a "tourist" to a "miner," we need a process. Discuss how you can implement the SOAP method this week:

- **S (Scripture):** What is your current plan for reading? (Recommendation: Try to read the *whole* Bible to see the big picture).
- **O (Observation):** What tools do you use to dig deeper? (e.g., Study Bibles, BlueLetterBible, BibleProject).
- **A (Application):** Ask: "What is this saying to *me*?" and "How can I live this out today?"
- **P (Prayer):** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live out what you just mined.

Closing Reflection

Read Proverbs 3:13–15 (ESV): "*Blessed is the one who finds wisdom... she is more precious than rubies [diamonds], and nothing you desire can compare with her.*"

- **What is one "diamond" (a truth or insight) you've found in the Bible recently that you wouldn't have seen if you hadn't dug a little deeper?**