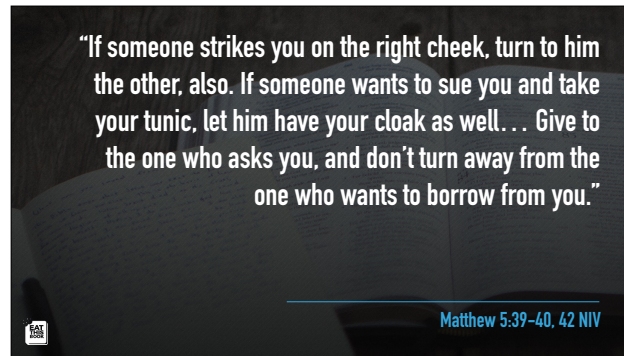



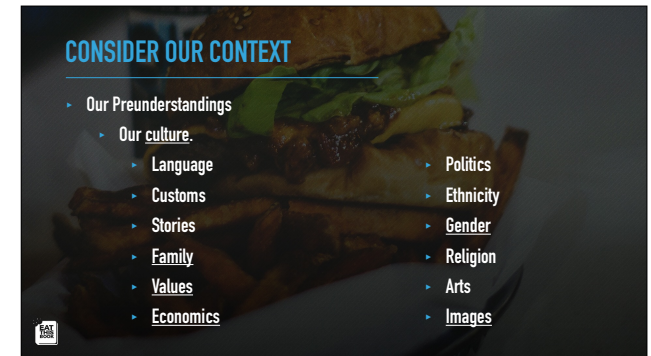

CONSIDER OUR CONTEXT

- Our Preunderstandings
 - Our culture.



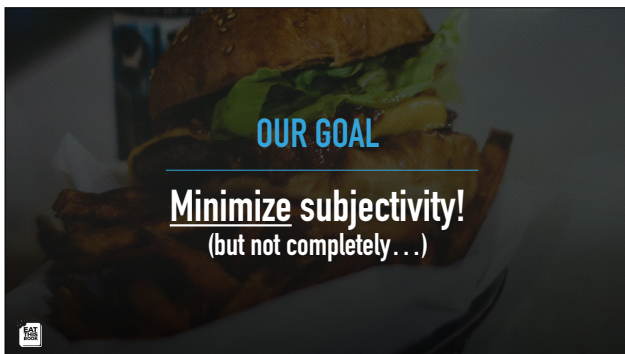

“If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other, also. If someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. . . Give to the one who asks you, and don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”

Matthew 5:39-40, 42 NIV



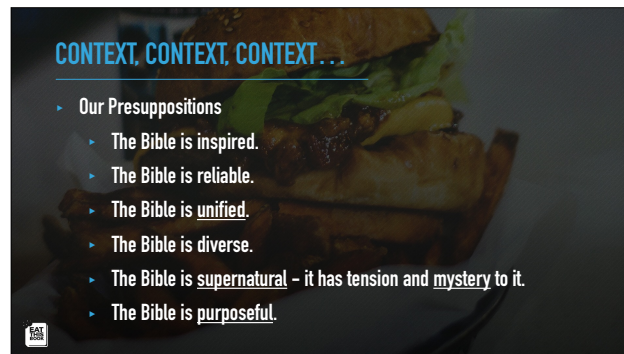

CONSIDER OUR CONTEXT

- Our Preunderstandings
 - Our culture.
 - Language
 - Customs
 - Stories
 - Family
 - Values
 - Economics
 - Politics
 - Ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Religion
 - Arts
 - Images



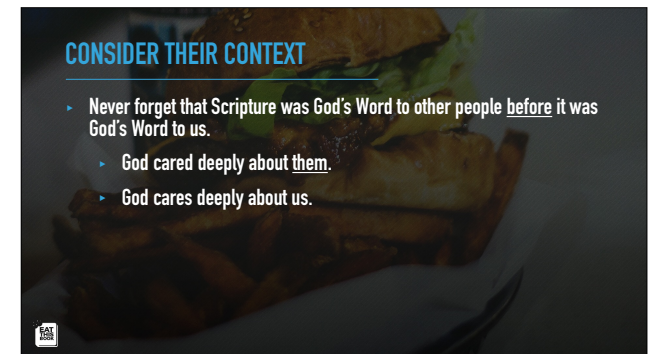

OUR GOAL

Minimize subjectivity!
(but not completely...)




CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT . . .

- Our Presuppositions
 - The Bible is inspired.
 - The Bible is reliable.
 - The Bible is unified.
 - The Bible is diverse.
 - The Bible is supernatural - it has tension and mystery to it.
 - The Bible is purposeful.



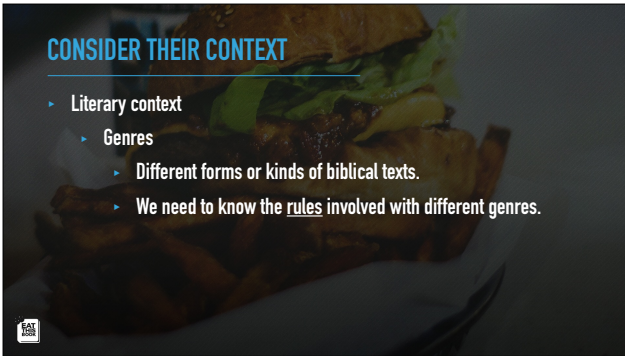
CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- Never forget that Scripture was God's Word to other people before it was God's Word to us.
 - God cared deeply about them.
 - God cares deeply about us.



CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- ▶ Literary context
 - ▶ Genres
 - ▶ Different forms or kinds of biblical texts.
 - ▶ We need to know the rules involved with different genres.



OLD TESTAMENT GENRES

- ▶ Narrative
- ▶ Law
- ▶ Poetry
- ▶ Prophets
- ▶ Wisdom literature



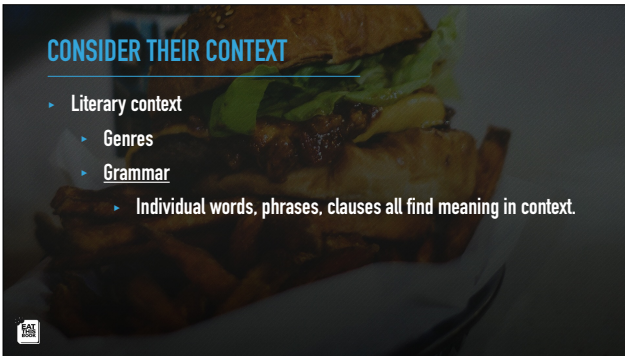
NEW TESTAMENT GENRES

- ▶ Letters
- ▶ Gospels
 - ▶ Parables
- ▶ Acts
- ▶ Revelation



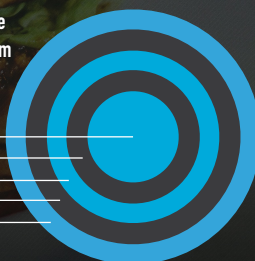
CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- ▶ Literary context
 - ▶ Genres
 - ▶ Grammar
 - ▶ Individual words, phrases, clauses all find meaning in context.

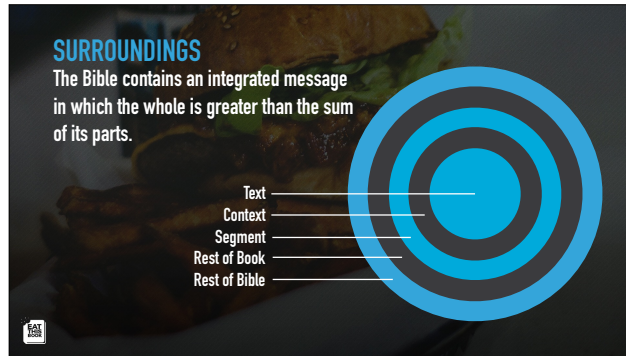


SURROUNDINGS

The Bible contains an integrated message in which the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

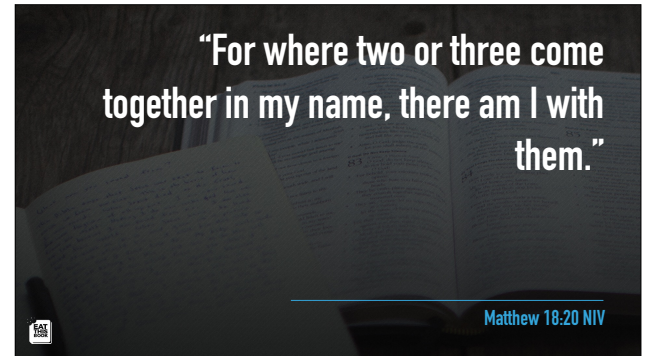


- Text
- Context
- Segment
- Rest of Book
- Rest of Bible



“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 18:20 NIV



“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.”

Revelation 3:20-21 NIV

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- Literary context
- Historical-Cultural context
 - Get to know the author.

“This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.”

John 21:24 NIV

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- Literary context
- Historical-Cultural context
 - Get to know the author.
 - Get to know the audience.

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

John 20:31 NIV

“When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria . . .”

John 4:3-4 NIV

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- ▶ Literary context
- ▶ Historical-Cultural context
 - ▶ Get to know the author.
 - ▶ Get to know the audience.
 - ▶ Get to know the geographical conditions.
 - ▶ Get to know the social conditions.

“When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’”

John 4:7 NIV

“The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?’ (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)”

John 4:9 NIV

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- ▶ Literary context
- ▶ Historical-Cultural context
 - ▶ Get to know the religious conditions.
 - ▶ Get to know the economic conditions.

“‘Sir,’ the woman said, ‘you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?’”

John 4:11-12 NIV

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- ▶ Literary context
- ▶ Historical-Cultural context
 - ▶ Get to know the religious conditions.
 - ▶ Get to know the economic conditions.
 - ▶ Get to know the political conditions.

"The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.'"

John 4:25-26 NIV

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- ▶ Literary context
- ▶ Historical-Cultural context
- ▶ Theological context

THE BIBLE APPEARS LIKE A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, WITH THE HOLY GHOST AS ITS TOSCANINI, EACH INSTRUMENT HAS BEEN BROUGHT WILLINGLY, SPONTANEOUSLY, CREATIVELY, TO PLAY HIS NOTES JUST

- J.I. Packer

AS THE GREAT CONDUCTOR DESIRED, THOUGH NONE OF THEM COULD EVER HEAR THE MUSIC AS A WHOLE. THE POINT OF EACH PART ONLY BECOMES FULLY CLEAR WHEN SEEN IN RELATION TO ALL THE REST.

- J.I. Packer

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- ▶ Remember that CONTEXT RULES.
- ▶ Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God.
- ▶ Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.
 - ▶ Compare Scripture with Scripture... use cross-references.
 - ▶ The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture.
- ▶ Avoid basing your doctrine on an obscure passage of Scripture.

"He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction."

2 Peter 3:16 NIV

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- ▶ Interpret Scripture plainly.
 - ▶ Use the literal sense unless there is some good reason not to.
 - ▶ Use the figurative sense when the passage tells you to do so.
 - ▶ Use the figurative sense if the expression is an obvious figure of speech
 - ▶ Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation runs contrary to the context of the passage, book, or purpose of the author.
 - ▶ Use the figurative sense if a literal meaning is impossible, absurd, or immoral.

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- ▶ Conclude the process of interpretation by describing the author's intended meaning in the passage.
 - ▶ The major question: "What's the point?"
 - ▶ In one or two sentences, write out what the author is saying to the original readers and why he is saying it.
 - ▶ Be responsible - remember, a text cannot mean what it never meant.
 - ▶ Be concise - keep it simple.
 - ▶ Be specific.

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- ▶ Check your conclusions by leaning on the church.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 NIV

**BRING IT BACK HOME:
HOW DOES IT RELATE?**

THE GOAL

Identify the timeless truth.
This is the theological principle that applies to all people at all times.

THE GUIDELINES

- The timeless truth is biblical.
- The timeless truth is compatible with the rest of Scripture.
- The timeless truth is eternal.
- The timeless truth is cross-cultural.
- The timeless truth is applicable both here and there.

APPLY IT IN YOUR HOME: WHAT DO I DO?

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| Interpretation focuses on meaning. | Application focuses on <u>action</u> . |
| Interpretation involves a singular meaning. | Application involves <u>multiple</u> actions. |
| Interpretation is the same for all Christians. | Application is <u>different</u> for specific life situations. |
| Interpretation involves getting into the Word. | Application involves the Word getting <u>into us</u> . |
| Interpretation asks, "What does this mean?" | Application asks, "How does this meaning apply to <u>my life</u> ?" |

THREE STEPS TO RESPONSIBLE, BIBLICAL APPLICATION

1. Meditate on the timeless truth.
2. Relate the timeless truth to today.

RELATE THE TIMELESS TRUTH TO TODAY

- See the timeless truth in its original situation.
 - Look for key elements in the original situation.
- Identify a contemporary situation that parallels the original situation.
 - Look for key elements that parallel the original situation.

"I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13 NIV

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

Philippians 4:10-13 NIV

RELATE THE TIMELESS TRUTH TO TODAY

- ▶ See the timeless truth in its original situation.
 - ▶ Look for key elements in the original situation.
- ▶ Identify a contemporary situation that parallels the original situation.
 - ▶ Look for key elements that parallel the original situation.
- ▶ Relate the timeless truth specifically to that contemporary situation.

THREE STEPS TO RESPONSIBLE, BIBLICAL APPLICATION

1. Meditate on the timeless truth.
2. Relate the timeless truth to today.
3. Practice the timeless truth.

PRACTICE THE TIMELESS TRUTH - FIVE QUESTIONS

1. Who should I be?
2. How should I think?
3. What should I do?
4. Where should I go?
5. Who will I teach?

**EAT
THIS
BOOK**

Devouring the Word of God