

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR BIBLE

Session Three — Application

GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Take the language in its normal sense, accepting it at face value, unless doing so does not make sense or something in the text indicates it should be taken figuratively.

The **three-step process** for getting the most out of your Bible: (1) observation; (2) interpretation; and (3) application. This lesson focuses on **application**. Paul told Timothy (2 Tim. 3:16) that “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” Paul identifies 4 areas of application:

1. Doctrine — this is instruction or teaching
2. Reproof — exposes the sin or area in our lives where we need change
3. Correction — shows us the right way or the right thinking
4. Instruction in righteousness — this is training so we can grow up to maturity

TIPS: First, you cannot do what you do not know. Second, growing means changing and changing comes at a cost. Third, there are severe consequences “in the now” and in Jesus’ kingdom for not applying the Word and growing to spiritual maturity.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belonged to them that are full age, even those who by reason of use have their sense exercised to discern both good and evil.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

APPLICATION answers the fundamental question, “How shall I live?” Every unit of thought within the Bible demands a verdict in our lives. There are **four** primary steps in the application process:

1. Know — we have to be “people of the book” because you cannot do what you do not know!
2. Relate — we have to relate the general application to every area of our lives where it will find a more refined specific application (church, work, school, family, relationships, my circle of influence).
3. Meditate — think on the things of God (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-2; Romans 8:5-6)
4. Practice — a continuous use of our tools (the Word) not just getting the tools out when something breaks

EXERCISES:

1. Joshua 5:13-15: And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD’S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.”

Key terms: Joshua, Jericho, sword, drawn, adversaries, captain, hosts, Lord, holy

What kind of literature is this? _____

What is the larger context? _____

What is the immediate context? _____

What verses outside Joshua might we compare to? Exodus 3:5 has similar language about Moses and holy ground

What is taught in this passage? _____

What is the primary application point? _____

What is a personal application point? _____

What helps might I consult? atlas or Bible map regarding location of Jericho; commentary on Joshua

EXERCISES CONTINUED:

2. “7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:7-11)

What are some key words? _____

GENERAL APPLICATION: I am set _____ to live a life that pleases God

PERSONAL APPLICATION: I am going to look into the mirror every day and ask God to remind me what He sees.

3. “1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, 2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. 7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22:1-14)

Key terms: _____

What genre of literature is this passage? _____

What is the context we can glean from Matthew 21? _____

What is the greater context of Matthew's purpose? _____

What are the great contrasts in this passage? _____

What two verses in this passage clue clue us to the interpretation? _____

What verses outside Matthew might we consult? Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 4:22-24; Zechariah 3:1-4

GENERAL APPLICATION (lost person): Whether I will be in the kingdom depends 100% on ...

GENERAL APPLICATION (saved person): My salvation is _____% God and so I must exhibit

What helps might we consult? commentary; Greek lexicon; dictionary; Bible software