

**Subject: *Search the Scriptures***

**Scripture: *John 5:39-47***

We are going to consider this text again and focus our attention on verse 39. Several years ago there was a Christian campaign known by the four letters: WWJD, What Would Jesus Do? It was a good reminder for us to stop and consider what He would do and then live that way. There is actually a better question to ask than “What would Jesus do?” We ought to ask “What did Jesus do?” and that question can be answered by looking at Scripture. Jesus based His whole life and ministry on God’s Word. In this message I want us to see how Christ used the Scripture. What was His view of Scripture?

### **CHRIST USED SCRIPTURE TO EXPLAIN HIMSELF AND HIS MISSION**

In John 5:39, Jesus said the Scriptures testify of Him. The Bible has been called the Him-book because it’s all about Him. Jesus is the theme of the Bible. Someone asked if a person had read the four gospels. He said, yes, in fact I’ve read all 66 of them.

When Jesus preached His first sermon in the synagogue at Nazareth, He read the Scripture, and then explained it: **Luke 4:16-21** *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*

After His death and resurrection, Jesus talked with some disciples on the road to Emmaus: **Luke 24:25-27** *Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

### **CHRIST HONORED AND BELIEVED SCRIPTURE**

He had a high view of Scripture. He believed all the stories and people in the Old Testament. He never said anything to cast doubt on the integrity and accuracy of Scripture. He honored it in every way. **Matthew 5:17-20**<sup>17</sup> *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.*<sup>18</sup> *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

He spoke of the law and the prophets, a reference to the Old Testament scriptures. The Old Testament writings were commonly recognized as holy books from God. They were unique and significant above all other books in the world. Christ came to fulfill Scripture. He fulfilled Old Testament prophecies and types (pictures). In the King James Version, the four Gospels contain a total of 3,779 verses. According to Graham Scroggie, 1,934 of these verses contain the words of Christ. In 1 out of 10 of these verses in which Christ is speaking, He either quotes or refers to the Old Testament, so clearly Christ based all of His life and teaching on Old Testament scripture.

The people were amazed at His teachings because He used Scripture to support everything He said: **Matthew 7:28-29** *And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

### **CHRIST USED SCRIPTURE TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION**

**Matthew 4:1-4** <sup>1</sup> *Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.* <sup>2</sup> *And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.* <sup>3</sup> *And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.* <sup>4</sup> *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.* Three times Jesus quoted Scripture (“it is written”). He used Scripture to counter Satan’s misuse of Scripture. We need to know and understand the Bible so we can handle it correctly. As 2 Timothy 2:15 says, we must rightly divide the Word of truth.

### **CHRIST USED SCRIPTURE TO CORRECT FALSE TEACHING**

The scribes and Pharisees, as the Sermon on the Mount reveals, had perverted the simple and powerful teachings of the Old Testament with their manmade traditions and interpretations. Christ peeled off these layers of tradition and misunderstanding to uncover the original intent of God’s law. Over and over Jesus said, “You have heard it said, but I say unto you.” Jesus brought out the spiritual depth of Scripture. Jesus went beyond the external and the superficial teachings of the scribes and Pharisees. He taught the importance of the heart and the attitude as well as the outward act. Jesus uncovered the simple truth of Scripture.

**Matthew 19:3-6** *The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

### **CHRIST USED SCRIPTURE TO EXPLAIN SPIRITUAL TRUTHS**

On one occasion His disciples asked Him why He spoke in parables (stories). He told them that it would be easy for anyone with a humble and willing heart to understand the parables, but for those who didn’t want to hear and believe, the parables would make no sense.

**Matthew 13:14-15** *And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray Him, so they would be prepared when it happened: **John 13:18** *I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.* He used Scripture to explain things to people who challenged Him. **Matthew 22:23-30** *The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first,*

*when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. And last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*

### **CHRIST USED SCRIPTURE TO EXPOSE AND CONFRONT SIN**

**Matthew 15:7-9** *Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

**Matthew 21:12-13** *And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

**Matthew 19:16-19** *And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

### **CHRIST USED SCRIPTURE TO WARN OF COMING JUDGMENT**

**Matthew 24:37-39** *But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Over and over Jesus confirmed the historical accuracy of the Old Testament. He spoke of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Lot, David, and Solomon. He referred to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. He spoke of Moses and the serpent in the wilderness as historical fact. When asked to give a sign that He was the Messiah, He said, "The only sign is that of the prophet Jonah."*

### **CHRIST USED SCRIPTURE TO CHALLENGE UNBELIEF**

In John 5:39-47, Jesus rebuked the people because they would not believe Him or the Scriptures. See verses 46-47. Jesus loved Scripture. He read and taught it. He quoted and explained it. He came to fulfill it. He upheld and honored it in every way, and He appealed to it as the final authority. Jesus endorsed the Bible as absolute truth. He said that we are all accountable for it. If Christ had such a high view of Scripture, shouldn't we?

We have learned in Bible classes that the most important thing about us is what we think about God. Actually, our view of God depends on our view of Scripture. Do we know what the Bible says and do we really care enough to believe it and obey it?