

Lesson 3: Jesus and the Apostle's View of the Bible

KEY ASPECTS

- 1) They viewed all scripture as reliable and power over how they should live their daily lives.
- 2) Their methods of interpretation and application still serve as a reliable guide for us today.

Jesus trusted the Word of God as the Source and Sustainer of life.

Jesus's temptation in the wilderness after 40 days of prayer and fasting (Matthew 4:1–11). Jesus responds the insight gained and power of stories from scripture:

- God is the Sustainer (v4) → Moses talks to the generation after the 40-year wandering, before they go into the promised land. God took care of them and provided all their needs, even when he had to discipline them. Bread and life itself come from God (Deuteronomy 8:2-5).
- God is trustworthy (v7) → Moses tells them not to test God in the promised land as they did in Massah (Deuteronomy 6:16). After the miracle of manna, the people were thirsty. Their need resulted in bitterness and anger. They accused Moses and God of bringing them into the desert to kill them; and not to deliver them. They wanted to stone Moses. They questioned presence of God among them. As well as His power to provide for them. God gave water for the people to drink from a rock (Exodus 17:1-7).
- Worship is a whole-being endeavor (v10) → Choose either God or false gods. You are either for or against. With a reminder that God brought you out of slavery and dependence on false unworthy gods through the wilderness sustaining and protecting you to a land of surplus (Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20; Josh 24:14).

Jesus is the embodiment and fulfillment of the Law and Prophets.

Intellectual knowledge is insufficient for knowing Truth → Jesus (Matthew 5:17–20; 22:29; 23:2-3)

- Jesus is the fulfillment of God's law. We are to peruse God's righteousness (Matthew 5:17–20; Romans 10:1-4).
- Their knowledge of scripture lacked comprehension of God's power (Matthew 22:29).
- Jesus is greater than Moses. Yet, the Pharisees seek to have the role and authority of Moses. They use their position for self-glory, in which they overburden others and miss the purpose of scripture (Matthew 23:1-7).

Love is the summary of the Law and Prophets (Matthew 22:37–40).

- Love the Lord with your whole being (Deuteronomy 6:1-9, particularly verse 5)
- Love your neighbor (Leviticus 19:11-18, particularly verse 18)

Jesus is the central theme of scripture.

Jesus walked the road to Emmaus with two of His followers (Luke 24:13-35). Jesus listened as they shared their wonder and sadness. Then, He confronted their lack of understanding (v25 -27). Later, Jesus appears to His disciples (v44-49) highlighting Old Testament scriptures that spoke of His mission (v46). He reminded them that:

- Christ suffering and rise from the dead on the third day (Luke 24:46; Psalms 22; Hosea 6:2)
- Repentance for forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:47; Daniel 9:24)
- Repentance proclaimed to all the nations (Luke 24:47; Psalms 22:27; Jeremiah 31:34; Micah 4:2)
- I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you (Luke 24:49; Isaiah 44:3; Joel 2:28)

Jesus affirms the historical credibility of scripture.

Jesus used the real-life characters and their situations in the Old Testament as a guide of how the Father interacts with individuals:

- Jesus referenced the stories of Elijah being fed by the widow Zarephath of Sidon (1 Kings 17:19) and Elisha cleansing Naaman of leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-14) as helping those outside of their home when He was rejected in Nazareth at the start of His ministry (Luke 4:25–27).
- Jesus referenced David (1 Samuel 21:6) when the Pharisees criticized Him and the disciples for plucking grain to eat as they walk through a field on Sabbath (Matthew 12:3-4).
- Jesus references Moses (Deuteronomy 24:1-4) and the creation of humans (Genesis 1:27) in His answer to the Pharisees testing (Mark 10:1–8).
- In Jesus' reproach of the Pharisees and lawyers (Luke 11:47-51), Jesus draws parallels of their actions and desires to kill Him with those who killed God's anointed ones in the past from Abel (Genesis 4:8) to Zechariah (2 Chronicles 24:20-21).
- Jesus spoke to His disciples using the example of Noah (Genesis 6:3-5) they were familiar with (Matthew 24:38).

The Apostles accept the sovereignty of God's Word over their lives and embrace its relevance to their daily lives.

- After Peter and John were threatened by the Sanhedrin for preaching Jesus' name, they went to their companions sharing what happened to them. Drawing parallels, they quoted David (Psalms 2:1-2) witnessing scripture explain their circumstance (Acts 4:24–26).
- Paul proclaims Old Testament scriptures (Genesis 3:15; Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 55:3; Psalms 16:10) as they speak of Jesus (Acts 13:32–36).
- Paul shares the example of God using Pharaoh (Exodus 9:16) as Part of God's plan of justice (Rom. 9:17).
- Paul states that scriptures about Abraham (Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14) predicted the gospel going to the Gentiles (Galatians 3:8).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does God want us to view and treat scripture today?
2. How can we learn to be reliant on the Word of God, and as submissive to it? (Matthew 4:1–11).
 - a. How did Jesus learn to be reliant on God's word?
3. How do we understand how all Scripture can be inspired, even the parts that are not necessarily applicable to us today? (Luke 24:13-35, 44-49)
 - a. How can we learn to accept the authority of all Scripture, even when we realize that not everything is still necessarily applicable to us today?
4. What (if any) competitive sources of authority (family, philosophy, culture) might be pitted against your submission to the Word of God?
 - a. What struggles do you face when culture, family, etc., have guidelines or competing values that violate the law of love?