

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

# EPISODE 14: MAKE IT MAKE SENSE

## THE WHY BEHIND THE HOW

### CONTEXT

Our theme this season is Dig Deeper, as we want to encourage you to grow in your relationship with God. As pastors, we have had people ask us, “how did you get that from the text” or tell us that their personal study time has been unfruitful and that things don’t always make sense. So this season we want to help you MAKE IT MAKE SENSE. We appreciate those who are willing to admit they have problems understanding God’s Word. And want to spend some time helping you understand how to study scripture in fruitful ways.

### THE WHY BEHIND THE HOW

Simon Sinek’s “Start With Why” argues a leadership principle. Before you get people to **the how** you need to make them understand **the why**.

Same with studying Scripture. We’ll show you how to spend rich, meaningful time in God’s Word. But you have to know the why behind the how.

**Because knowing the *why* makes the *how* much more meaningful.**

So that’s the question we start with: Why is it important to commit to regularly studying scripture?

God has chosen to reveal himself through scripture.

- i. Knowing God: General revelation vs. specific revelation
  - a) General revelation-God revealing himself through nature and his providence.
    - 1) Psalm 19:1-6-God’s glory is declared in the heavens. There’s a proclamation in nature itself.
    - 2) Romans 1:18-20-God’s invisible attributes are clear in the things he has made.
  - b) Special revelation
    - 1) Theophanies-God appearances in Scripture (Exodus 3:1-6)
    - 2) Dreams and visions-God appears to specific people for a specific purpose (Genesis 28:12)
    - 3) Jesus Christ-God incarnate and ultimate special revelation of God (John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 1:1-3)

- 4) The Word of God-God's divine direction moved men and women to write what we have come to know as God's Word (2 Peter 1:19-21)

God has provided scripture as our spiritual sustenance.

- i. Regular interaction with Scripture is just as necessary as regularly eating meals- Cannot live by bread alone. (Matthew 4:1-4)
- ii. God commands us to read scripture regularly. (Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:15)

God has breathed out scripture as the primary means He uses to communicate to us.

- i. 2 Timothy 3:15-16
- ii. *All Scripture is breathed out by God*-“God ‘expired’.” – Includes Old and New Testament, even the tough texts. (Peter talks about Paul's letters as Scripture before canonization. 2 Peter 3:15-16)
- iii. *Scripture teaches us*. Profitable for teaching (*didaskolia*). Heresy is running. Rampant (point of letter). Every leader is to devote himself to teaching (1 Timothy 4:13) and Paul later warns of a time when folks will not endure sound teaching (2 Timothy 4:3). Scripture written for our instruction. (Romans 15:4)
- iv. *Scripture reproves us*. Profitable for reproof. Scripture holds up a mirror and shows us our true selves. (Titus 1:9)
- v. *Scripture corrects us*. It helps set us back on course. (Deut. 8:2-5)
- vi. *Scripture trains us in righteousness*. It shows us the path of right living. (Psalm 1; Psalm 23:3). Paul uses the same word (*paideia* from the root for child) for training/instruction in Ephesians 6:4. No one is above teaching/training. We are called to be childlike in learning through Scripture. (1 Peter 2:2)
- vii. *Scripture equips us for good works*. We aren't saved by our good works but are saved for good works. (Ephesians 2:10)

God's living and active scripture provides His means of communicating with humanity.

- i. *God's word discerns our heart*. A two-edged sword that pierces and divides soul, spirit, and marrow. (Hebrews 4:12)
- ii. *God's word communicates his salvation* – Faith comes through hearing God's word (Romans 10:13-17).

i. TAKEAWAYS

- a) Knowing WHY you study Scripture makes the HOW behind studying God's Word much more meaningful.
- b) God breathed on Scripture, so it could breathe into us.
- c) A teachable Christian is a growing Christian.