

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

MAKE IT MAKE SENSE

SO WHAT?

CONTEXT

In this episode, we will now turn to one the most important components of studying Scripture. Application. Bible study is merely an intellectual activity apart from applying what you learn to your life. So in this session we want to help you answer this question.

Application: So what?

Why Application is Important

- i. Scripture isn't meant to merely inform us, but to transform us. (Romans 12:1-2)
 - a) The Bible was not written to satisfy your curiosity; it was written to transform your life.- William Hendricks.
- ii. Jesus implies that true followers do what he says (Luke 6:46)
- iii. Righteousness isn't found in intellect, but life application (Matthew 5:20)
- iv. The condition of the ground determines the yield of the fruit (Matthew 13:1-9)
- v. Bible study should always be a mirror and not a window. We are to move from hearers to doers. (James 1:22-25)

How to Apply the Text

- i. Be honest with yourself (1 Timothy 4:16)
 - a) Timothy as Paul's mentee.
 - b) Know your strengths and your weaknesses. Helps you understand what still needs development. (Romans 12:3-do not think of yourself more highly than you ought)
- ii. Make it experiential. Carve our application for major areas of your life.
 - a) Social: How can this make me a better friend/colleague?
 - 1) How am I cultivating true, deep friendships that aren't superficial?
 - 2) What kind of mentoring/mentee relationships do I find myself in?
 - 3) Do I regularly participate in elections or skirt my social responsibilities to neighbor?
 - b) Family: How can this make me a better husband/wife/son/daughter?
 - 1) How am I loving my wife/husband better?
 - 2) How am I valuing my family the way this passage challenges me to do?
 - c) Financial: How can this make me a better steward of God's resources?
 - d) Vocational: How can this make me a better employee?

- 1) How am I being honest with my employer about what I'm doing and when I'm doing it?
- 2) Do I follow through on what I say I'm going to do?
- e) Health: How can help me take care of the body God gave to me?
 - 1) How am I tracking my intake and the impact it has on my body?
 - 2) What does my sleep schedule look like and how much do I really rest?
- f) Spiritual: How can this make me a better Christian?
 - 1) What kind of spiritual disciplines does this challenge me to practice more frequently?
 - 2) What kind of behaviors is this text challenging in me?
 - 3) What kind of learning, serving, and giving opportunities do I practice regularly?
- iii. Meditate and rehearse what you've learned (Psalm 1:1-2)
 - a) Memorizing Scripture helps you internalize Scripture.
 - b) We are more apt to apply Scripture when we are able to recall it.
- iv. Ask Application Questions-Five good questions to ask
 - a) Is there an example to follow? (caveat: prescriptive vs. descriptive)
 - 1) Abraham's intercession in Genesis 18:22-33.
 - 2) Paul tells the Corinthian church to follow his example (1 Corinthians 11:1)
 - b) Is there a promise to claim? (caveat: Everything aint a promise. And you can't name and claim everything)
 - 1) God will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5)
 - c) Is there a sin to avoid?
 - 1) Jesus raises the standard in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:21-26)
 - d) Is there a command to obey?
 - 1) Paul's imperatives in his letters (Galatians 6:1-10)
 - e) Is there a condition to meet?
 - 1) Usually found in conditional statements in Scripture (If...then..."
 - 2) If you abide in me..." (John 15-caveat---ask according to His will)
 - f) *New Testament*: Matthew (6), Mark (1), Luke (8), John (2), Revelation (1)
- v. Mark 4:16 "...receive it with **joy**."
 - a) The only time joy appears in Mark. But indicates that joy can be impacted by persecution and tribulation.
- vi. John 15:11 and 1 John 1:4 The fullness of joy the Psalmist wrote about is now consummated in the gospel and life of Christ.

RESOURCES

Life Application Study Bible