Interpreting the Bible (2 of 4)

*By Raj, for Carol’s CG, PPHBC*

*Session 2 (25/4/2014)*

1. Mary is talking to you after church: “My boyfriend and I are having some problems. But Thankfully God told spoke to me this morning through Ephesians 4:22, and told me that I should break up with him.”

Ephesians 4:22 (NKJV)

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

**How would you respond to her?**

**Point:**

1. Raj: “Interpreting the Bible”

* A good way to interpret the bible
  + The basic rule:

Always do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

before \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* + Another way to look at it: “The Interpretive Journey”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The Interpretive Journey** | |
| *Exegesis* | *Hermeneutics* |
| Original Meaning | Today’s Application |
| **Grasping the Text in  Their Town** | **Grasping the Text in  Our Town** |

1. Interpreting 2 John (NIV)

1The elder,

To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—2because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:

3Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love.

4It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. 5And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. 6And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

7I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. 9Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. 11Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

12I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

13The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The Interpretive Journey** | |
| *Exegesis* | *Hermeneutics* |
| Original Meaning | Today’s Application |
| **Grasping the Text in  Their Town** | **Grasping the Text in  Our Town** |
|  |  |

1. **But *how* do we figure out the original meaning?**

**CONTEXT**

* 1. **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**
  + **General**
  + **Specific**
  1. **LITERARY CONTEXT**
  + **General: Genre**
  + **Specific: Structure**

1. Context for 2 John:
2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT
   * General
   * Specific

The Gnostics were a group of false teachers in the early church. They claimed that Jesus only *appeared* in the flesh, but was actually a spiritual being, not a man.

1. LITERARY CONTEXT
   * General (Genre):

A letter

* + Specific (Structure)

Greeting (vv. 1-3)

Love one another (vv. 4–6)

Warning about deceivers (vv. 7–11)

Closing (vv. 12–13)

1. Raj: Concluding thoughts

* Interpretation isn’t very hard: “66 friends”
* Interpretation isn’t easy: “teaching the bible in the jungle”