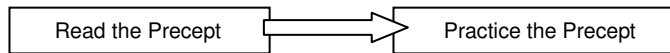


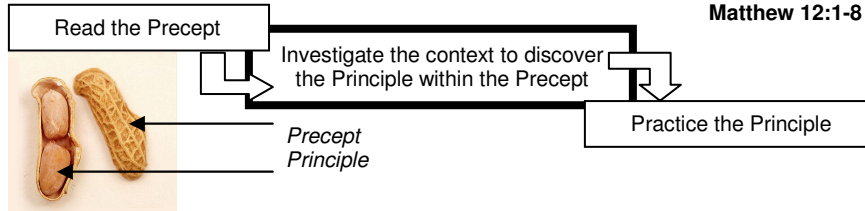
HOT POTATO #4: *Can Women Lead The Church?*

INTRODUCTION – The Jesus Hermeneutic

READING THE BIBLE RELIGIOUSLY...



READING THE BIBLE JESUSLY ...



Note: What is “the context”? Not just the verse before and after, but the heart of God revealed in all of history (e.g., **Matthew 19:3-9**).

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant – not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
~ **2 Corinthians 3:6, TNIV**
(Also see **Romans 7:6**)

The New Testament describes the first few years of the church’s development. *THE QUESTION IS...*

- Do we try to duplicate what we see in the New Testament writings down to the _____?
- Or do we read the New Testament according to the _____, asking God for the wisdom to apply the *principles* to our context?

LOOK TO THE BOOK

COMPLIMENTARIAN PASSAGES...

Genesis 1-3; 1 Corinthians 11: 2-16; 14:34-36; **1 Timothy 2:8-15**; 3:2; Titus 2:3-5

EGALITARIAN PASSAGES...

Genesis 1-3; Luke 8:1-3; 10:38-42; Acts 2:16-18; 18:26; Romans 16:1, 7; **Galatians 3:28**

QUESTIONS RAISED...

- Why was Adam created before Eve?
- Why is Eve created to be Adam’s “helper”?
- Why was Eve, not Adam, deceived by the serpent?
- Why does God tell Eve that her husband will “rule” over her?
- Why did Jesus only choose male disciples?
- Why does Paul assume church overseers are male?
- Why does Paul say that women should not teach men?

POINTS OVERLOOKED...

- In Scripture, God doesn’t assume birth order determines primacy. Why should we?
- “Helper” in the OT refers to the *strong* helping the *weak*, usually of *God* helping *us*.
- There is no record in Genesis of Eve hearing the law *directly* from God.
- Adam ruling over Eve is only mentioned *after* the Fall as part of the curse.
- First-century women were generally Torah-illiterate and thus would not be listened to on spiritual matters. Still, Jesus was the first recorded Rabbi to begin educating women in spiritual things. Besides, technically, Jesus had women disciples (learners), just not women apostles (sent ones).
- First-generation Christian women did not yet know Torah.
- Ditto... But, following Jesus’ lead, Paul does tell women to start learning.

Galatians 3:28; 1 Timothy 2:8-15

CONCLUSION – The Unfolding Kingdom

Luke 13:18-19; Acts 2:17-18

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

- After reviewing this week’s message, talk about your reaction. What things most challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you?
- At this point, would you consider yourself an “egalitarian” or a “complimentarian”? More importantly, what kinds of emotions do you experience toward people who strongly hold the opposite view?

LOOK TO THE BOOK... [CHOOSE ONE]...

- Read **1 Corinthians 14:34-36**. A) Both **verses 34 & 35** emphasize the absolute silence of women in church. How does **1 Corinthians 11:5** put this in perspective? How can the “Jesus Hermeneutic” help us figure this out? B) Read **verse 35** closely. What seems to be the real issue that Paul is addressing in the Corinthian church? How do you think Christian women may have been reacting to their new-found freedom in Christ after being kept silent, subservient, and subdued all their lives? (Does **1 Timothy 2:9-10** offer a clue?) C) Based on **1 Timothy 2:8**, what kinds of things do you think the men needed to work on? D) How could Paul’s instructions in **1 Timothy 2:11** also help address the problems of the Corinthian Church (remember **1 Corinthians 14:34-36**)?
- Read **Luke 13:18-19**. A) What does it mean to say that the Kingdom of Christ is organic, developmental, and unfolding? B) What relevance does this text have on the issue of women in church leadership and the Bible? C) How does this relate to our earlier “Hot Potato” topic about whether or not it is biblical to build or renovate a building for services rather than just meet in homes? D) How does this concept apply to the Bible and slavery? E) Our Jewish friends say Jesus didn’t bring world peace, as the Messiah is prophesied to do, so Jesus couldn’t be the Messiah. How does the principle of an unfolding kingdom address this objection?

SO WHAT?...

- Take a few minutes to individually meditate on **Galatians 3:26-29**. When done, talk about whatever insights you notice there. What most encourages or convicts you in this passage? Pray for each other in light of this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 23 / 30, 2005