Have You Not Read?

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INTRODUCTION

- The preacher there came right out and said that there really wasn't enough information in the New Testament to define the organization of the church and to establish a pattern for it, even if you wanted to.
- I want to spend some time looking at a phrase that Jesus used several times in answer to questions that came to him during his ministry.
- He says, Have you not read? We're going to take that phrase and talk for a little bit about Jesus' expectations regarding how we view the written word.

1 Have You Not Read? Examples in Matthew

Matthew 12:1–5; Matthew 19:3–5; Matthew 22:29–32

- Have you not read what David did when he was hungry?
- The starting point for his answer was looking at things that they should already know about the will of God.
- Have you not read that he who made them at the beginning made them male and female.
- Have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

2 The Answers Are in the Reading

2 Timothy 3:16–17; Isaiah 8:19–20; Proverbs 11:24–26

- Jesus said, If you want the answer to this question, go back and read. You already have it.
- All scripture is given by inspiration of God. It's profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
- To the law and to the testimony. If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.
- The place that we go is by asking what God has said. We begin by looking at the revelation that we have.
- My response as a Christian needs to be driven by what the Bible says about my own relative abundance and the relative poverty of others.

3 The Revelation of God Settles the Question

Luke 10:25–28

- The revelation of God settles the question. Once the will of God had been cited, there was no arguing with it. There was no negotiating.

- Jesus never began one of these answers with the words, it seems to me. He said, Have you not read?
- When the temptation came along, Jesus' first response was always, It is written.
- Jesus didn't ask, What would Moses do? Jesus asked, What did Moses say?

4 Assuming That We Know It Already

Luke 10:25–28

- When Jesus says, Have you not read, there was an expectation that his audience would be familiar with the scripture already.
- If Jesus came to us and asked the question, what is written in the gospel? What is your reading of it? Would we be prepared to answer that?
- Our interest in the Bible needs to be sufficient that we spend time studying it for ourselves, that we incorporate it into our being, so that we know what the Bible says on these subjects.
- Not because we heard some guy say it one time, but because we have thought about these things for ourselves.

5 Make It According to the Pattern

Exodus 25:40; Philippians 4:9; 1 Corinthians 11:23

- See to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.
- The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.
- Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me in faith and love, which are in Christ Jesus.
- I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the same night on which he was betrayed, took bread.
- So, am I a patternist? Absolutely I am. The only way I know whether something pleases God is that he's told me something about it.

THE CHALLENGE

If you're not a Christian this morning, have you not read what God expects?

MY NOTES