How Do You Read It

Brent Moody · Luke 10:25–29

INTRODUCTION

- He said to him, What is written in the law? How do you read it?
- We have no business making applications when we do not understand the historical context and meaning of a text first.
- The encouragement overall this morning is to realize we have to read well and read scripture as it is intended.

1 Every Letter Is Written for a Specific Reason

1 Timothy 2; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3

- Every letter is written to somebody for a specific reason, dealing with specific problems that may not be the problems we're dealing with. Now here's the thing, we can still learn from them.
- Our situation is not exactly like that, but the principles and the truths still are there.
- We're going to end up with bad applications when we do that. Context matters.
- We have to do some work, and it is hard work, and shortcuts are easy, but they're also lazy and they're destructive.
- We need to honor texts for what they are and not just proof text because they have a specific word in them that sort of fits what we already think or believe.
- Paul did not write either one of these texts, Ephesians 5 or Colossians 3, about the instrumental music question.

2 The Way These Texts Should Be Used Does Not Change

2 Timothy 4:13; Ezekiel 4; 1 Corinthians 16:1–3

- The way these texts should be used does not change over time. The nature and the purpose of these New Testament books does not suddenly change because it was a long time ago.
- It's a piece of literature written for people to understand the mind of God that has been revealed to us.
- Why does Paul ask Timothy to bring his cloak? He's cold. A letter is a letter. It doesn't suddenly change into some mystical symbolic thing.
- The story is about God and the things that God is doing and teaching us about who God is and who we need to be.
- Paul is writing to the Corinthian brethren about a specific collection for specific people in a specific place.
- We're reading other people's mail, and we're neglecting other texts that show that people were taking their possessions and giving them to people as they had need.

THE CHALLENGE

When it comes to scripture, am I reading it the way is it intended? Am I sure? Am I sure that's what I'm doing?

MY NOTES